



Subject:	Request regarding offer of a Statue from representatives of Stena Line
Date:	22 nd February 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director, City and Neighbourhoods Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Members on the offer of a statue to the City of Belfast from Stena Line along with a funded programme regarding nonviolence for young people and to seek approval regarding the site of the statue.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• agree that the statue offered by Stena Line should be placed at the Girdwood site subject to the proper conditions being put in place.• note that Officers will continue to liaise with Stena Line to explore the potential for a nonviolence programme for children and young people and bring any proposal through the Shared City Partnership in the first instance.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 226 448 255"><u>Background</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 327 1458 560">3.1 The Olsson family, founders and owners of Stena Line, support many causes and charities including the Non-Violence Project Foundation. The Foundation has some high-profile supporters, however, there is not currently much awareness in the UK and Ireland https://www.facebook.com/nonviolenceuk/. The family is interested in exploring a potential initiative with the City of Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="165 629 1442 757">3.2 The symbol for this is the famous statue by Carl Reutersvärd, which, among other places, is situated in front of the United Nations building in New York. This statue is a well-known symbol of peace and non-violence.</p> <p data-bbox="165 828 1442 956">3.3 The Olsson family is very supportive of the intentions and ambitions in this organisation/project, especially in relation to Stena Line's property and buildings, many of which are in troubled areas.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1030 392 1059"><u>Request</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1131 1458 1514">3.4 The request was brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in October 2018 advising members of the idea to offer a statue to City of Belfast. Belfast is Stena Line's largest port today. Stena Line already supports the Belfast Giants, however, this initiative would seek to demonstrate in a different way that Stena Line cares about the schools and the youth of Belfast. Members of the Olsson family would travel to Belfast for the inauguration of such a statue with the Lord Mayor. Stena Line would then support a non-violence program to be rolled out at certain areas or schools. The overall purpose is to show that Stena Line takes responsibility and contributes to society in a positive manner.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1585 1442 1767">3.5 A pack outlining the request had been previously circulated to members but is attached again for members' convenience. Members had agreed that Officers should meet with the representatives of Stena Line to explore options for the siting of the statue and bring a report back to Committee in due course for consideration.</p>

Key Issues

- 3.6 The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and the Good Relations Manager has met with representatives from Stena to discuss the thinking around the project further.
- 3.7 While it may initially appear that the image of the “knotted gun” does not sit comfortably within the Belfast context, members may wish to note the statue can be customised to meet local needs / issues (pictures included in the appendix), and it can be colourful and vibrant.
- 3.8 Stena had proposed a number of sites, which could suitably host the statue – including a maritime position which would be close to the City Centre and would be linked to the tourism offering within the City.
- 3.9 However, given the Belfast context - a city moving out of conflict and which is being regenerated, not just centrally but in local communities with the aim of promoting connection and cohesion, the representatives were asked to consider Girdwood as an appropriate place to site the statue.
- 3.10 The representatives were impressed with the history and the development of the site. The building of a shared space in a previously contested area, the development of a further phase to continue the work at the site and beyond including linkages to a major arterial route were factors, which they recognised sat with the aims of the project as well as providing natural local connections with any potential programme. Therefore, Officers were asked to bring the matter before Committee for their approval to site the statue at Girdwood.
- 3.11 Should Council agree to the above request, the company have stated that they would be willing to invest significant funds in a programme for children and young people through schools which would look at nonviolence. They have advised that they would wish Council to take the lead on this initiative. Members will be aware that the Council is currently supporting a number of programmes through PEACE IV but these are confined to afterschool activities as stipulated by the funding conditions.

3.12	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>At this stage, there are no financial implications for Council.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs assessment</u></p>
3.13	<p>There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report. Should Council agree to support the request for the statue and associated programme, the aim would be to promote positive good relations within the City.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Presentation on the Project from Stenaline</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Information about the Non Violence Programme</p>