



Subject:	Update on Statue gifted by Stena Line
Date:	21st June 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 progression of the siting of the statue at Girdwood gifted to the City of Belfast from Stena Line along with a funded programme regarding nonviolence for young people.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none">note the update on progress and give approval for Officers to progress a partnership approach and agreement with the Education Authority regarding a nonviolence programme.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 226 448 255"><u>Background</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 327 1469 510">3.1 Council at their meeting in March 2019 had agreed to accept the gift of a statue representing non-violence from The Olsson family, founders and owners of Stena Line. The owner supports many causes and charities including the Non-Violence Project Foundation. The family is interested in exploring a potential initiative with the City of Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="165 577 1442 707">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="165 779 1437 958">3.3 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.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1030 1458 1209">3.4 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, Council considered Girdwood as an appropriate place to site the statue.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1281 1461 1514">3.5 The representatives from Stena Line 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.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1585 1453 1863">3.6 As Council agreed 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.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1935 1461 2020">3.7 In the interim, Officers have met with representatives from the Education Authority who are responsible for Shared Education and the suggestion would be that a partnership approach</p>

is undertaken. This would mean that in addition to the financial contribution from Stena Line, resources could be accessed from the Shared Education Programme through the EA. Council has already agreed that funding from the Council's Good Relations Action Plan is directed towards a schools intervention programme.

3.8 In implementing this approach, it delivers flexibility to work with schools/groups on a single identity basis, reduces the risk of duplication, increases the significance of the programme and means that ongoing support and progression can continue which results in the projects being mainstreamed – a more sustainable approach.

3.9 Such an approach would require Council and the EA to enter into a partnership agreement and Members are asked to give approval for Officers to progress this agreement subject to input from Legal services and approval from the Education Authority.

3.10 It should be noted that progress reports on the programme will be brought to the Shared City Partnership in the first instance and then through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.11 Members are also asked to note that the unveiling of the statue will take place in Girdwood on 13th September 2019 from 11am- 12pm. It is envisaged that the Lord Mayor and Mr Olssen will undertake the unveiling. In advance of the event, a creative programme is being organised with young people who use Girdwood to ensure their participation and understanding around shared space and the reason behind the statue.

3.12 Panels will also be developed to tell the story of Girdwood and the background to the statue to give the piece context.

3.13 Members are asked to note that the Lord Mayor will also host a visit for Mr Olssen on the same day to acknowledge his contribution to the City of Belfast.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.14 Stena Line are covering the costs of the launch and siting of the statue. Other programmes can be funded through existing budgets.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs assessment

3.15 It is anticipated that the siting of the statue at Girdwood will promote and enhance good relations and equality within the City.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None