

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER 2016

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Councillors Attwood, Johnston, Nicholl and
Walsh.

External Members: Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director;
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace IV Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Sandford and Ms. A. Chada and Ms. J. Hawthorne.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th August were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6, Good Relations Small Grants 2016/17, Tranche 2, in that he was associated with the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group. Mr. P. Mackel also declared an interest on the same agenda item, in that he was associated with the Northern Ireland Trade Union Educational and Social Centre Limited T/A Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre. Both organisations had made an application for funding through the Good Relations Small Grants Fund but neither representative was directly involved in the submission of the application for funding.

Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor Attwood, seconded by Councillor Walsh and agreed that Councillor Kyle would remain as the Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership for the remainder of the term up until the Council's Annual General Meeting.

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Presentation on the Bonfire Programme

The Members were advised that Dr. J. Byrne, University of Ulster, was in attendance in order to outline his findings in relation to the 2016 Bonfire Programme. Dr. J Byrne then presented his findings to the Members, which included an overview of the Programme and key observations on both the July and August bonfires.

He outlined the issues around cultural activities and highlighted the emphasis placed on the celebration of culture within a positive, family environment through historical discussions and community festivals. He also detailed the challenges faced by Belfast City Council in terms of encouraging groups to become involved in the programme and concluded by outlining his recommendations going forward.

Dr. Byrne then addressed a number of questions which had been put to him by the Members and left the meeting.

Noted.

Update on the Bonfire Programme

The Partnership considered the undernoted report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Shared City Partnership with an update of the 2016 Bonfire Programme and to seek members’ recommendations in relation to possible retentions of funding for those groups who were unable to meet all of the programme guidance.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that they note the contents of the monitoring and evaluation report of the 2016 Bonfire Programme.

2.2 To consider the information contained in relation to possible retentions of funding for those groups who were unable to meet all of the 2016 Bonfire programme guidance and to make recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the level of any retentions of funding in relation to the listed groups.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Monitoring of 2016 Bonfire Programme

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Members will recall that Dr Jonny Byrne was appointed to carry out monitoring visits to all sites that participated in the 2016 Bonfire Programme. Members are asked to note the contents of the report which highlights:

- **An overview of activity delivered by participating groups**
- **A comparison between those sites on the 2016 programme and those not on the programme**
- **A summary of the key issues raised for the Good Relations Unit by bonfires in Belfast**
- **Key learning/recommendations for future delivery**

- 3.2 Visits to all sites that were part of the 2016 Bonfire Programme were carried out by Dr Byrne up until 8.30pm on 11 July and 8 August. In addition Dr Byrne spoke to a sample of groups about the activity that they had delivered through the programme.**

Dr Byrne will make a presentation on his findings at the beginning of the Shared City Partnership meeting on 12 September.

Programme delivery

- 3.3 The Good Relations Unit delivered the 2016 Bonfire Programme and liaised with groups in the development of applications and submission of appropriate paperwork. The installation of beacons and training for community organisations in how to use these structures was delivered by an independent company, managed by staff in the Good Relations Unit.**
- 3.4 Following on from the 2015 delivery model, the Community Safety Unit in Belfast City Council addressed community safety issues that were reported at bonfire sites both on and off the 2016 Bonfire Programme. Good Relations staff worked with the Community Safety team on an ongoing basis to resolve issues at sites on the 2016 Bonfire programme.**
- 3.5 Reports were produced for the Council Management Team and regular meetings between officers from the good relations, community safety, policy, cleansing and parks departments took place on an ongoing basis.**

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Programme outputs

- 3.6** In total, 39 groups took part in the 2016 programme. 28 groups engaged in cultural awareness activity for the first time.
- 3.7** 17 participating groups had a bonfire on 11th July. The majority of the bonfire sites did not have any Nationalist / Republican flags on them prior to 8.30pm and most were well maintained, tidy and did not have any toxic materials or paramilitary displays.
- 3.8** Of these 17 sites, 4 were observed to have had issues or concerns in relation to complying with the terms and conditions of the Bonfire Programme.

For comparison figures for 2015 and 2016 programmes are listed below:

	2015	2016	Change 2016
Participating groups	52	39	- 14
11July bonfires	31	17	- 14
Possible retention of funding	19	4	- 15
Beacons	6	10	+ 4
Cultural programme	0	28	+ 28
Alternative to bonfires (July)	7	5	- 2
August activities	8	7	- 1

Statistics / Information from statutory partners

- 3.9** Members will appreciate that this is a complex area of work and officers have requested specific and detailed information from all relevant statutory partners for information on the resources dedicated to bonfire related activity across Belfast.

Possible funding retentions for groups who have not met guidelines

- 3.10** Members will recall that this issue was raised at the August meeting of the Partnership. Having sought the relevant advice, the officer recommendation is that the Partnership should consider verifiable evidence in relation to possible failures to meet the programme guidelines.

Appeals Process

- 3.11** Members have agreed that the composition of the appeals panel will be the Chair, Vice-chair and the NIHE representative of the Shared City Partnership. The panel is scheduled to meet in September. Groups will be contacted by officers

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following a decision from the Partnership on what information to consider when identifying possible retentions of funding.

Networking event

- 3.12** Following feedback from participating groups after the 2015 BMP it was agreed that the 2016 model should include networking events that provide the opportunity for groups to meet to discuss issues of interest. This event is scheduled for 19 September.

Review and development of proposals for 2017

- 3.13** Members will recall at the August meeting it was agreed that Dr Byrne would facilitate a review meeting with the Shared City Partnership, this meeting is scheduled to take place on 11, 18 or 25 October and members will be contacted to advise of their availability.
- 3.14** The Strategic Interagency Bonfire group is meeting on 13 September. Dr Byrne will also attend this meeting to seek feedback from Belfast City Council officers and agency partners on the approach used in 2016 and identify any improvements that can be made to this approach.
- 3.15** Members may recall that in December 2015, TIDES were appointed to produce a report containing recommendations in relation to a Belfast City Council approach to cultural expression. This report is due for submission and the findings from this will be brought to the Partnership on completion. The findings of this report will inform the 2017 approach to bonfires by the Good Relations Unit.

A report on options for the 2017 programme will be presented to the October meeting of the Partnership.

Financial & Resource Implications

All activity to date has been resourced through the funding available for the delivery of the Bonfire Programme.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Bonfire Management Programme aims to promote the positive celebration of culture which will have a positive impact on good relations.”

Several Members stated that it was disappointing that ‘positive news stories’, for example, the use of beacons instead of bonfires, had not attracted press coverage whilst

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issues of anti-social behaviour, often at bonfires not actually participating in the scheme, had managed to attract publicity.

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised that she had liaised regularly with the Council's Corporate Communications Section in order to try and promote 'positive news stories' but added that it was difficult to control how the media actually chose to report.

The Members noted that the Strategic Interagency Bonfire Group would be meeting on 13th September and that feedback would be sought at this meeting from Belfast City Council officers and agency partners on the approach used in 2016 to try and identify any improvements that could be made.

The Members also suggested that officers should liaise with the PSNI to discuss the challenges that had been highlighted by Dr. Byrne during his presentation.

The Senior Good Relations Officer confirmed that officers would seek to gather information through the Strategic Interagency Bonfire Group from all the relevant statutory partners on the resources that had been deployed to bonfire related activity across Belfast and this included the PSNI.

The Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 8th August, clarification had been sought as to whether external evidence could be considered as part of the appeals process. The Partnership was advised that having sought advice, the recommendation was that it should consider verifiable evidence. The Partnership noted that, should it adopt this approach, evidence had been provided to officers that ten groups had failed to meet the criteria set out within the Bonfire Programme. The officer explained that, should the Partnership endorse those retentions of funding, a process would, following the meeting on 23rd September of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, be initiated which would offer those organisations having funding retained an opportunity to appeal against that decision. Final recommendations arising from the appeals process would then be presented in October to the Partnership and to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Following detailed discussion the Partnership agreed that:

- it would consider all verifiable evidence in relation to possible failures to meet the programme guidelines;
- funding retentions would be applied to ten groups which had failed to meet the criteria set out within the Bonfire Programme and for which there was verifiable evidence;
- the appeals panel would meet on 27th September and would comprise of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and Miss. D. Crawford (who would deputise for Mrs. J. Hawthorne who was unavailable);
- Dr. J. Bryne would facilitate a review meeting with the Shared City Partnership during October;
- the Shared City Partnership would engage with the Commission on Flags, Identity Culture and Tradition;

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- the TIDES report containing options for the 2017 Bonfire Programme would be presented to the November meeting of the Partnership; and
- a networking event would be held on 19th September, which would provide an opportunity for groups to meet to discuss issues of interest.

Update on Peace IV

The Good Relations Manager provided the Partnership with an update on the application for funding for a Belfast Local Action Plan under the Peace IV Programme.

The officer reminded the Partnership that, as agreed at its meeting on 8th August, the second stage application for funding for a Peace Local Action Plan had been submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body on 16th August 2016. She advised that an acknowledgement letter had since been received which advised that the Stage two application would be presented to a Steering Committee for assessment no later than 23rd December.

The Good Relations Manager reported that, subsequent to that, SEUPB Officials had contacted the Council to advise that the format of the bid submission had been revised and that the bid should be resubmitted in the new format by 2nd September. She advised that a number of initial queries had been received regarding the application process and confirmed that these had been addressed and the application had since been forwarded to the SEUPB.

Several Members of the Partnership noted their concern at the long-term continuation of this Programme post Brexit and following discussion the Partnership:

- noted the submission of the Stage two application and the correspondence received from SEUPB; and
- agreed that the Members would highlight the need to include Peace IV into any relevant discussion by Council in relation to Brexit .

Good Relations Small Grants 2016/17, Tranche 2

The Partnership considered the undernoted report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To seek the approval of the Shared City Partnership to approve an allocation of funding towards supporting organisations to deliver Good Relations Projects through the Good Relations Fund 2016/17 Tranche 2

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that £132,812 be approved as a contribution to support 41 organisations to deliver Good Relations Projects.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** The second tranche of funding under the Good Relations Small Grant Fund for activities taking place between 1st October 2016 and 18th March 2017 closed on 8th July 2016. St Patrick's Day celebration grants and other Belfast City Council small grants for a similar period all closed on this date.
- 3.2** The purpose of the Good Relations Small Grant Fund reflects the Together: Building a United Community strategy which outlines the vision of 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation'.
- 3.3** By the closing date of applications, the Good Relations Small Grants Fund had received 58 applications totalling approximately £333,000. The St Patrick's Day Celebration grants fund had received 60 applications totalling approximately £54,000.
- 3.4** The Good Relations Small Grants Fund is co-funded by the Executive Office (TEO) (75%) and Belfast City Council (25%) through the District Council Good Relations Programme.
- 3.5** As the grants under the Good Relations Fund are aimed at activities taking place between 1st October 2016 and 31st March 2017, these have been assessed first and have been scored against set criteria by Good Relations Officers as outlined in the guidance notes. Following this, an independent assessment panel was set up to review a sample of applications. This was chaired by the Senior Good Relations Officer, attended by 3 other officers independent of the Good Relations Unit and facilitated by Central Grants Unit (CGU).
- 3.6** The role of these panels is to ensure that the scoring of applications has been undertaken in an appropriate fashion and to provide verification of sampled applications and the overall process. Members should note that projects which scored under 50 were not deemed to have met the Good Relations criteria of the scheme and were not recommended for funding. The independent panel was satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria and agreed to recommend the officer's recommendations for awards and these are attached.
- 3.7** Members should note that the recommendations for the St Patrick's Day Celebration grants fund will be brought to the October meeting of the Partnership for approval.

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- 3.8 A total of £684,025 has been allocated to the Belfast District Council Good Relations Programme. The Shared City Partnership had previously agreed that a total of £247, 332 should be allocated to the Good Relations Small Grants Fund; £126, 177 of this was allocated in Tranche 1; this leaves a figure of £121,155 to be allocated in Tranche 2.**
- 3.9 In previous grant rounds funding was awarded on the basis that organisations do not normally claim 100% of the amount that has been awarded through grant aid. For 15/16, claims were in the region of 88% of the amount awarded. This would be £135,693.**

Officers would recommend that given the approach outlined above, option 3 listed below is the most appropriate funding route.

Option 1- Fund 32 organisations that have scored 60% and above which would require an amount of £110,813.00

Option 2 - Fund 34 organisations that have scored 55% and above which would require an amount of £115,023

Option 3 - Fund 41 organisations that have scored 53% and above which would require an amount of £132,812

Financial & Resource Implications

£121,155 is available to support projects under Tranche 2 of the Small grants programme. Given that the previous years, claims were in the region of 88% of the amount awarded, it is anticipated that this can be accommodated within the existing budget for the Programme.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Good Relations Small grants programme supports activity that will promote good relations.”

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the adoption of Option 3, as set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report, with the successful groups being listed hereunder:

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Name of Group	Project Name:	Amount Requested:	Amount Recommended:	Score:
Fane Street Primary	Fane Street Families Exploring Identity	£1,773.00	£1,306.00	90
Bardic Educational Arts And Media (BEAM)	Our Island	£9,922.00	£4,920.00	88.75
Falls Women's Centre	Falls Women's Centre Welcome To Our Community Project	£9,440.00	£6,630.00	86.25
N.I.Trade Union Educational & Social Centre Limited T/a Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre	Talkabouts and Walkabouts - Belfast for Beginners	£3,150.00	£2,520.00	82.5
Northern Ireland Children's Enterprise	Faith and Culture Project	£8,000.00	£5,355.00	82.5
Youth Link: NI	Apprenticeship Programme for Building a United Community	£10,000.00	£8,600.00	78.75
Curry Primary School	NORTH BELFAST PARENTS PROGRAMME	£10,000.00	£6,500.00	75
St. Peters Immaculata Youth Centre	Lower Falls Young People's Peace Line Study	£6,110.00	£4,720.00	75
Terra Nova Productions	Arrivals Anti-Racism Workshop programme	£9,982.80	£4,250.00	75
Sudarshanam NI	Festival of Lights - Bridging	£3,800.00	£2,950.00	75
Lagan Village Youth And Community Group	Christmas for All	£5,210.00	£2,910.00	71.25
Africa House (NI)	Africa House (NI) Integration and Orientation Information Days	£3,370.00	£2,330.00	71.25
The Fellowship Of Messines Association	New Citizenship Programme 2016	£4,568.21	£4,021.00	71.25
Prime Cut Productions	The Place Between	£10,000.00	£3,850.00	71.25
WheelWorks	A Step Beyond - A Virtual Reality Experience	£4,618.00	£3,318.00	71.25
Hannahstown Heritage And Cultural Society	Fostering Friendship Through History	£1,985.00	£1,665.00	68.75

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EastSide Arts	The Home Project	£9,868.00	£3,835.00	68.75
Teach Na Failte	Connecting our young people to their communities and families	£6,980.00	£5,520.00	67.5
Teach Na Failte	Casual racism and its impacts.	£3,091.00	£610.00	67.5
Kabosh Theatre Company	Green & Blue - Bridging the Divide	£3,525.00	£2,400.00	67.5
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	Shared History Shared Space.	£2,105.00	£1,980.00	67.5
EPIC NI	Shared History Educational Project : Home Rule to Partition	£3,705.00	£2,820.00	67.5
Romanian Roma Community Association For N.I.	Roma Intercultural Mediation for Integration	£5,835.00	£2,885.00	67.5
Friends Of The Fallen Farset	Gaining a Working Knowledge of Irish Regiments Before and After Petition	£1,345.00	£1,130.00	67.5
Active Communities Network	Sports for All Sorts	£7,840.00	£3,040.00	65
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)	International Women's Quilt	£3,440.00	£2,110.00	65
The Tuesday Club	Remembering our Past	£3,585.00	£2,955.00	65
Annadale & Haywood Residents Association Ltd.	Chinese New Year 2017 (Year of the Rooster) - Cultural Celebrations	£3,366.76	£1,885.00	65
Cedar Foundation	Challenging, Changing, Celebrating	£6,630.00	£5,138.00	63.75
The John Hewitt Society	Once Alien Here III	£5,300.00	£2,080.00	61.25
Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens	Active Citizenship & Anti-Discrimination Project	£3,880.00	£3,480.00	61.25
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	Uniting Our Village	£6,590.00	£3,100.00	60
South Belfast Roundtable	Small Worlds Workshops	£3,170.00	£2,610.00	57.5
Suffolk Lenadon Interface Group	North and West Life at the Peace Walls	£9,316.00	£1,600.00	56.25
Dalaradia Historical/cultural Society	Footsteps to our common heritage	£3,800.00	£3,260.00	53.75
Adullam Christian Ministries	You're Beautiful Cross-Community Conference	£10,000.00	£1,000.00	53.75
Beyond Skin	Youth4Peace	£6,725.00	£1,875.00	53.75

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	International Women's Day			
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative Trading As Community Arts Partnership	Programme for Intercultural Arts Support's (PICAS) Use It Project	£9,999.02	£6,250.00	53.75
Friends of Careers N Kids	Cross community activities	£5,000.00	£300.00	53.75
Training For Women Network Ltd	Women's Dialogue Across Belfast City	£9,769.60	£3,067.60	53.75
Inner East Youth Project	We Are What We Are (Culture, Traditions & Heritage)	£4,350.50	£2,037.00	53.75
Totals:		£241,144.89	£132,812.60	

Update on the bid to Department of Justice re: Interfaces

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that The Executive Office had drawn down the sum of £1.124 million revenue and £0.44 million capital from the Shared Future ring-fenced funds on behalf of the Department for Justice (DOJ). She advised that this had been based on funding bids submitted by a number of Departments and agencies, including Belfast City Council. The Council's funding bid had been predicted upon a proposed four year funding cycle but the DOJ had since advised that the funding would revert to an annual funding bid, commencing March 2017.

The officer reported that as the Council had been applying for a four year funding package, the original Council funding bid had centred on the recruitment of a small staff team to focus on interface working within the Council. That approach was in keeping with the view that work on interfaces required a strategic and more long-term approach to achieve successful outcomes and that current arrangements were unsustainable on an annual funding cycle with no guarantee of the availability of funding for the subsequent year and no confirmation of funding until late in the year.

The Good Relations Manager advised that, in view of this, a £10,000 funding bid had been submitted that would permit the Interfaces Internal Officer Group to identify potential projects for Council-led interventions. It would also allow for a potential workshop with the Members of the Shared City Partnership and a number of briefings with the Party Groups and the Council's Area Working Groups, with the aim of agreeing a Council position on its contribution to the barrier removal process. She added that the adoption of an agreed Council position on interface working would enable the Council to respond positively to requests for future funding bids from the DOJ/The Executive Office.

The Partnership was also advised that the Council had been asked to contribute a strategic outcome and associated indicators to the Executive/DOJ 'strategic outcomes' document against which progress would be monitored and reported into the Executive's Interfaces Programme Board. She recommended to the Members that this strategic

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outcome should be drawn from the emerging Belfast Agenda and outlined the proposed outcome and associated indicators as follows:

- 'Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all'; and
- All people in Belfast feel welcome and safe, and are treated with equality and respect, in a city that values diversity/difference and encourages civic participation.

Possible Indicators:

- crime rates;
- hate crimes;
- perceptions of safety;
- antisocial behaviour;
- number of interfaces; and
- participation rates in elections.

A Member raised an issue in terms of ensuring that there was no duplication in terms of the work in respect of the barrier removal process and also how the Council could sustain this important area of work in an innovative way.

The Good Relations Manager advised that the Council already had an Internal Officer Working Group which was made up of officers from a number of Departments whose work had an impact on Interfaces and stated that it was important that a collaborative inter agency approach was adopted in terms of the barrier removal process. However, she continued that it was difficult from a Council perspective as it did not actually own any of the interfaces but added that the Council could work with other agencies in order to add value to the process.

The Partnership noted the revised bid for one year's funding (totalling £10,000) to focus on working internally within the Council to develop an agreed Council position on the role of Council and the Members in supporting those communities engaged in the barrier removal process.

Update on the Murals Programme

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 11th April, the Partnership had set aside £25,000 within the current Good Relations Action Plan, under the Safe Community theme, to support communities in the transformation of murals which could be perceived as causing an offence to the general public.

She then reminded the Members that the aim of the programme was to work directly with local communities to facilitate positive improvements in their cultural expression and heritage in areas such a community art and that it would also support projects to:

- remove, replace or transform an existing mural that was perceived as aggressive in content and involve the wider community in the project;

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- engage residents on local related Good Relations issues;
- support engagement activities on issues of physical demarcation;
- link to T:BUC priorities of improving attitudes amongst children and young people, creating safe and shared communities, promoting positive cultural expression and promoting good relations within communities; and
- develop a positive image that links to a significant centenary event/topic or other subject of relevance to the local community.

She advised that the maximum amount of funding available for each project was £5,000 and that projects must be completed, with all invoices received, by March 2017.

She highlighted that the application process was currently open and forms were available on the Belfast City Council website or via the Good Relations Unit and applications must be submitted before Friday, 30th September at 4.00 p.m.

The Partnership noted that it would be updated on successful applications at the October meeting.

Update on the Diversity Programme

The Good Relations Manager provided the Partnership with an update on the forthcoming Diverse City Programme which was due to commence again in September. She advised that the first event was scheduled to be held on 22nd September and would include a visit to the Belfast Islamic Centre.

She reminded the Partnership that the purpose of the programme was to build on previous interventions to address hate crime. The programme aimed to encourage an increased awareness of issues around diversity and to provide participants with an opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from other faith, ethnic and political backgrounds.

The Partnership was reminded also that the Good Relations Unit had previously commissioned Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) to deliver a yearlong intervention programme in six schools to equip them to address bias behaviour and promote positive relations. She advised that, as part of the project, a Shared Learning Event, which would bring the participating schools together, would be held in the City Hall, in March 2017. It was suggested that in the interim, the Partnership might wish to receive a presentation regarding the Intervention Programme.

The Partnership agreed to receive a presentation regarding the Intervention Programme from CRIS at a future meeting.

**Request for contribution towards repair costs for
Northumberland Street art piece**

The Partnership considered the following report that was tabled at the meeting.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask members of the Shared City Partnership to consider a request from the West Belfast Athletic and Cultural Society (WBACS) to approve a contribution towards the cost of repairs to an art piece on Northumberland Street.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the Partnership consider a request from the West Belfast Athletic and Cultural Society (WBACS) to approve a contribution towards the cost of repairs to an art piece on Northumberland Street and make any relevant recommendations to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 Members of the Shared City Partnership (SCP) received reports in June 2016 that an art work on Northumberland Street had been damaged by fire in an attack that the PSNI identified as a hate crime. This attack received media coverage and was condemned by community leaders as being anti- Semitic.
- 3.2 Following a request, the vice chair of the SCP and the Senior Good Relations Officer met with members of the Jewish community and the West Belfast Athletic & Cultural Society (WBACS) who had developed the art work.
- 3.3 At the meeting the group requested that Belfast City Council consider a contribution towards covering the costs of repair to the art work. The artist has advised that affected panels cannot be replaced and the entire art piece will have to be repaired. Costs are in the region of £2,900. The project was initially funded by WBACS.

Art piece

- 3.4 The art work depicts the life of John Henry Patterson, an Irishman born in County Longford in 1867, who served with

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the British army in the Boer War and WWI. In WWI he commanded Jewish volunteers at the battle of Gallipoli; his involvement there led to him being recognised as a key figure in Zionism.

- 3.5 The WBACS has an on-going programme of re-imaging murals in the Shankill area and as part of the decade of centenaries commemorations research was carried out into key figures of the time. Following this research WBACS commissioned a mural celebrating Col Patterson's life and international links to Africa and the Middle East.

An image of the damaged art work is provided below:



Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.6 A contribution could be considered in line with any potential underspend in the DCGRP action plan. There are no existing funds available to fund this work. Funding would be subject to the approval of the Executive Office who provide 75% funding for the programme.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.7 This project is not part of the DCGRP Action plan and has not been screened as part of this activity. Therefore, members may wish to consider the equality and good relations implications of agreeing to this request for support."

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It was noted that there was no budget available to fund this work and the Members of the Partnership were keen not to set a precedent should damage be caused to other memorials/art pieces throughout the City.

A Member noted how disappointing it was to see this act of vandalism, which was only one of many, and suggested that in order to try and re-educate young people that educational programmes could be introduced into local schools which could possibly include a visit to a local Jewish Synagogue.

The officer advised that there was no budget provision, therefore, should the Partnership agree to provide assistance the funds would have to come from any departmental underspend.

Following discussion, it was agreed that, due to the limited financial resources available, the Senior Good Relations Officer would liaise with the West Belfast Athletic and Cultural Society and request that, in an attempt to reduce the cost, they investigate further the possibility of replacing the damaged panels rather than replacing the full art piece. She also undertook to investigate further the equality and good relations implications of agreeing to this request and to update the Partnership accordingly.

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week was being held from 19th – 25th September.

She drew the Members' attention to the events being organised through the Good Relations Programme for that week as follows:

- Parades and Protests Booklets launch on Wednesday 21st September from 9.30 a.m. -11.00 a.m. in the City Hall;
- #Youth4Peace Day being held on 21st September from 6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. in the City Hall; and
- Key Women from the 1916 Rising event on 22nd September from 6.30 p.m. -9.00 p.m.

Venue for October Meeting

The Partnership were reminded that the October meeting of the Shared City Partnership would be held in the Skainos Centre.

Chairperson