

MEETING OF DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

Thursday, 8th September, 2016

Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery and Rodgers; and
Councillors Beattie, Hutchinson and Long.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager;
Ms. S. Robinson, Lord Mayor's Principle Officer; and
Miss. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McAllister.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4th August were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 19th August, agreed to introduce a policy whereby each Council Working Group would be required to consider the appointment of a Chairperson and, where considered appropriate, a Deputy Chairperson on an annual basis. That item of business would be placed on the agenda for the first meeting of each Working Group following the Annual Council meeting each year and, for the 2016/17 year would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of each Working Group.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to defer the election of Chairperson to allow the Review of the Diversity Working Group to be completed, and agreed that Councillor Dudgeon would remain as Chairperson of the Diversity Working Group until such time.

Review of the Diversity Working Group

The Good Relations Manager outlined the contents of the report regarding a review of the options for the continuation and purpose of the Diversity Working Group.

The Working Group agreed to defer consideration of the report to allow time for Party Group discussions on the contents, with an updated report to be submitted in due course, to include a draft remit and terms of reference of the Working Group.

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During discussion, the review of the grounds of the City Hall was referred to and the Working Group noted that the Chief Executive's Office would help the parties to set up a series of interparty discussions regarding a review of the grounds of the City Hall as agreed by the Working Group on 9th June, if required.

Notice of Motion - Shared Future

The Working Group agreed to defer consideration of the report until the next meeting to allow Councillor McAllister to attend, as the notice of motion had been initially moved by Councillor McAllister on 8th December, 2014.

Commemorations and Decade of Centenaries (oral update)

The Good Relations Manager provided an update on the Commemorations and Decade of Centenaries programme which had been discussed at the last meeting. She advised that she and the Lord Mayor's Principle Officer had met with the Party Group Leaders to discuss the draft chronology of the decade of centenaries from 1917-1922 and potential forthcoming commemorations outside of the decade, , so that Party Groups could then initiate their own group discussions.

She advised that they would meet with the Party Group Leaders again in October, to obtain feedback, with a view to submitting an updated report at the November Working Group for consideration, which would also include ad-hoc requests, budget implications, and information as far as possible on other organisations' plans.

During discussion, the Good Relations Manager highlighted that the item regarding the request for support for the 75th Anniversary of the US Troops arriving in Belfast had been referred back to the Working Group for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 19th August. She advised that the item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Diversity Working Group.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the update and agreed that the aforementioned report regarding the Review of the Diversity Working Group should also examine the use of an annual draft action plan and budget allocation mechanism for events and commemoration requests for the Group to consider.

Members also noted that the Battle of Messines (1917) had been added to the draft chronology and further additions would be discussed with Party Group Leaders, with a final draft being submitted to the Group for consideration.

Chairperson