



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion Re: Racist Attacks
Date:	18th September, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Mr. S. McCrory, Principal Committee Administrator (extension 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Jim Hanna (extension 6313)

Relevant Background Information

The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, had agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 11 (e), that the undernoted Notice of Motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor B. Kelly, be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee without debate:

“That this Council unreservedly condemns the recent racially motivated attacks in the city of Belfast and agrees to join the European Coalition Against Racism to help publicly endorse the Council’s opposition to all forms of racism.”

Key Issues

The Council has established the Good Relations Partnership with the following terms of reference:

- to promote equality of opportunity in the discharge of the Council’s responsibilities, taking into account the needs of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation, of men and women generally, of persons with a disability and persons without and of persons with dependants and persons without;
- to promote tolerance and understanding throughout the City by providing support, including the equitable use of available budgets, for appropriate initiatives which celebrate the cultural diversity of Belfast;
- to promote good relations between people of different religious and political beliefs and different racial groups in every aspect of Council activities; and
- to use the Council’s influence as a democratically elected body, providing civic leadership to the City, to promote good relations throughout society.

Key Issues (continued)

As the issue falls within its remit, it is felt that it would be appropriate for the matter to be referred to the Partnership in the first instance.

In addition, since the Partnership has been established as a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee all recommendations of the Partnership will be subject to the agreement of the Committee and ratification by the Council.

Resource Implications

There are no financial or Human Resource implications associated with this report.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to refer the matter to the Good Relations Partnership, with a view to a report thereon being submitted to the Committee in due course.

Decision Tracking

If the Committee is minded to adopt the recommendation, the Good Relations Manager will be advised and the matter progressed through the Partnership.

Officer Responsible: Jim Hanna, Senior Committee Administrator (extension 6313)