

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

FRIDAY, 16th APRIL, 2010

MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and
Councillors C. Maskey, McCarthy,
McCausland and Stoker.

External Members: Ms. S. Bhat, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum;
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;
Mr. R. Galway, Bombardier Aerospace/Confederation
of British Industry;
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. M. Marken, Catholic Church; and
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Social Development
(in place of Ms. E. Wilkinson).

In attendance: Ms. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Ms. A. Deighan, Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Committee Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor Kyle and from Mr. P. Bunting, Rev. L. Carroll, Rev. J. Rea, Mr. P. Scott and Ms. M. deSilva.

Reverend Lesley Carroll

Having been advised that Reverend L. Carroll was unwell at present, the Partnership agreed that a letter be forwarded to her conveying its best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

Matters Arising – DisabledGo

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 12th March, it had received a presentation on the work of DisabledGo which provided online access information regarding buildings and venues in different towns and cities across the United Kingdom and Ireland. The minute in this regard had indicated that a report on funding for the DisabledGo Belfast Guide would be presented to the April meeting of the Partnership. She reported that the contract with DisabledGo had been recently extended for a further three years and, therefore, there was no longer a need for a report to be submitted.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Islamic Cultural Centre

The Partnership was advised that Mr. J. Smylie and Mr. A. Saadi, representing WDR and RT Taggart, Architects and Engineers, were in attendance to address the Partnership in relation to the potential location in the City of a cultural centre for Muslims living in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Smylie explained that the project was being sponsored by a named benefactor from Saudi Arabia who planned to purchase a suitable site and erect an appropriate centre. He outlined the extent of the development, which would include a multi-purpose hall to be used for activities such as prayer and education, a retail unit, crèche and a student facility. He explained that the benefactor had requested that a letter of support be forwarded to him on behalf of the Lord Mayor and the Council welcoming the location of such a facility within Belfast. Mr. Saadi provided further details in relation to the scale of the centre and informed the Partnership that a site which was situated between the Boucher and the Lisburn Roads had been identified as being suitable, although this had not yet been obtained. He added that the project would be undertaken in accordance with the planning process.

Messrs. Smylie and Saadi answered a number of questions which were put to them by the Partnership and, having been thanked by the Chairman, they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that a letter be forwarded on behalf of the Lord Mayor and the Council supporting, in principle, the development of a Islamic Cultural Centre in a non-specific site within the City. The Partnership agreed also that the representatives be invited to attend a future meeting in order to outline in further detail their proposals for the development of the facility.

Presentation – Belfast Divercity Project

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th January, it had agreed to receive from the Workers' Educational Association a presentation in relation to the Belfast Divercity Project. Accordingly, Mr. D. Moore, on behalf of the Association, was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

Mr. Moore informed the Partnership that the Project, which had been launched on 26th March, provided a programme of training and support for organisations wishing to explore shared organisational space. He explained that the Workers' Educational Association was acting as the lead partner in delivering the initiative, in conjunction with the Belfast Interface Project, Interaction Institute for Social Change and Mediation Northern Ireland. He outlined in detail the aims of the initiative, which included the raising of awareness in relation to the nature and potential of diverse communities and providing participants with the practical skills required to manage differences. Participants would also be provided with an opportunity to obtain a nationally recognised qualification which could be used for their professional development.

Mr. Moore provided an overview of the types of programmes available to those participating in the scheme. He advised that a ten-day programme addressing the themes of collaboration and diversity was organised for leaders within the community/voluntary sectors which provided a Level 3 qualification in managing diversity. He reported that the first group which had participated in the programme had included representatives from a number of communities across the City and that feedback had been positive. A six-day programme aimed at workers and volunteers within these sectors, which examined the themes of diversity, equality and conflict management, would commence on 25th May and lead to a Level 2 qualification in understanding equality and diversity.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Moore answered a number of questions which were put to him by the Partnership and retired from the meeting.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Peace III Implementation Update

The Peace III Programme Manager submitted a report which provided an update in respect of the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. The report outlined the progress which had been achieved to date on the themes and actions contained within the Plan, together with a summary of expenditure under each of the four themes of the Plan and a summary of actual and planned activity from March till May.

He informed the Partnership that the Special European Union Programmes Body would, on 20th May, be holding in the Belfast Waterfront Hall a conference to mark the midpoint of the Peace III Programme. He explained that the high profile event would feature a number of testimonials from projects highlighting the impact which the Programme was having in promoting peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. A number of keynote speeches would be delivered from European speakers on a wide range of issues, including other potential sources of European Union funding and new and innovative networking opportunities. The event would reflect also upon the success of the Programme to date and provide project beneficiaries with an opportunity to discuss future priorities. Importantly, the Belfast Peace Plan would, as part of the event, be profiled as a case study. He pointed out there would be no fees for attendance at the event.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed that attendance at the Peace III Conference of any Elected Member be considered as an approved duty.

Peace III – Guidelines for Building Positive Relations at a Local Level

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Purpose of paper

To update the Partnership on the Guidelines for PEACE III Building Positive Relations at the Local Level Phase II which were issued by the SEUPB on 2nd April 2010.

Background

Phase I of the Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan under Priority 1.1 – Building Positive relations at the Local level of the PEACE III Programme runs until June 2011. The objective of this priority is to challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism and to support conflict resolution and mediation at the local community level.

The Partnership will recall that it has considered the issue of planning for phase II at its meetings and review sessions though in the absence of formal guidance. The guidelines and assessment framework for Phase II 2011-2013 have now been issued to Lead Partners by the SEUPB. Belfast City Council as Lead Partner will now be charged with developing a plan for Phase II of the Programme for submission to the SEUPB by 17 September 2010. A copy of the guidelines is attached as an appendix to this report.

Key Issues

The guidelines state that in the absence of a decision on the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland, the existing configuration of the PEACE III Clusters will form the basis for the preparation of bids for Phase II. In the event that a decision on the proposed Review of Public Administration configuration timetable is taken at sometime in the very near future, SEUPB may review this decision.

Proposals are sought led by local authorities on a partnership basis. Applications will have to demonstrate:

- Due regard to the leadership role of local authorities
- A clearly developed active partnership approach
- Identification of strategic approaches to local issues
- Management capacity
- A review of Phase I Action Plans
- Robust consultation
- Complementarity with statutory provision and other Peace III plans and projects supported under the PEACE Programme.
- Contribution to the cross cutting themes of cross border co-operation; equality; sustainable development and impact on poverty.

POBAL and the Community Relations Council have been retained by SEUPB to assist each Partnership to develop the plans, review draft plans and submit a suitability statement.

Community Planning principles are to be used, this means a partnership approach involving elected representatives, statutory representatives, Trades Unions, private sector, and the voluntary and community sector.

A formal Partnership Agreement is required to be submitted with each plan. This agreement will include details on the following:

- Composition of the Partnership and its origins – the partnership composition should accurately reflect the orientation of the Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan with a statement of agreement of the respective responsibilities of the partners and developed on a partnership basis.
- Roles and responsibilities of partners
- A code of conduct
- Equality statement

The guidelines require that the partnership is balanced, that members have appropriate skills and expertise on peace building and reconciliation and that community interest and needs are represented.

Assessment

Plans will be subject to assessment by the consortium of POBAL and Community Relations Council, economic appraisal and approval by the Programme Steering Committee. Plans will be assessed against the following criteria

Element	Weighting
Equal Opportunities	10%
Sustainable Development	10%
Efficiency and Effectiveness	20%
Programme & Measure Specific criteria	60%

Resources

There is no firm indication of the amount of resources available for each action plan under Phase II but the guidelines state that the budget allocation under Phase I is used as a guide with the possibility of a 30% variance applying depending on the quality of the plan, Phase I performance and capacity. This could mean an allocation for Phase II of approximately £6-8 million.

Up to 30% of resources within each plan must be committed to cross border actions. The guidelines refer to resources being made available to each area for the development of the Phase III Plans up to £7,500. It is proposed that external consultancy support be brought in to allow for facilitation of consultation and collation of responses at a cost of approximately £7,500

Timetable

Final Plans must be submitted by 17 September 2010. SEUPB and the Consortium will accept draft plans 4-6 weeks prior to this date for a preliminary assessment. Following assessment and economic appraisal Letters of Offer would be issued to allow for implementation to begin in 2011.

Resource Implications

Financial Implications

Additional resources of up to £7,500 will be made available to each area to allow for the development of Phase II Plans.

HR Implications

None at present.

Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to note the guidelines and timetable for preparation of an action plan for Phase II of Belfast Peace Plan 2011-2013.

The Partnership is requested to approve a procurement exercise for consultancy support for consultation and collation of responses.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendations and agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the expenditure associated therewith.

Peace III – Funding for Interfaith Work

The Peace III Programme Manager reminded the Partnership that £245,000 had, within the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan, been allocated to Action 3.2 Inter-Faith Work under the theme of Shared Cultural Space. The Partnership had, at its meeting on 12th March, following a review of the progress achieved under this Action, requested an open call for grants and agreed that consideration should be given to broadening the scope of the call to projects reflecting inter-faith and inter-cultural initiatives and that it not be confined solely to inter-church projects. He explained that the aforementioned Plan sought to achieve shared cultural space in the City and

to celebrate and provide a place to the different backgrounds and traditions of the citizens of Belfast and to build a collective responsibility to ensure that there was a place for identities other than our own. He stated that the original aim of Action 3.2 was to encourage faith group consortia to develop inter-faith initiatives to be delivered at a local level, to encourage greater inter-church participation and understanding and counter intolerance, particularly amongst younger people. Indicative outputs associated with the action had included the following:

- (i) four cross-border inter-faith community based networks;
- (ii) twenty-four inter-faith dialogue initiatives to be undertaken by June, 2010 and to involve over 500 participants;
- (iii) a group practice guide being developed in order to promote integration of new communities to existing congregations and networks; and
- (iv) fifteen inter-community initiatives to be undertaken with over 300 young people from faith-based youth organisations.

He reported further that it was proposed that the Partnership make at the earliest opportunity an open call for projects in line with the aims of Action 3.2. The assessment criteria and related application documentation would be in line with the guidance note on project selection which had been issued by the Special European Union Programmes Body. The open call would aim to identify projects led by properly constituted organisations possessing sound management and good governance arrangements with a track record of successful delivery which would:

- be in keeping with the principles of shared space in its design, programming and management;
- be of sufficient scale and scope in terms of geographical coverage and the number of participants in keeping with the strategic nature of the Peace Plan;
- demonstrate active partnership in development and delivery of the activity, including signed letters of support where applicable;
- complement existing and/or planned activity in the City;
- take place before the end of June, 2011; and
- have a robust methodology for monitoring and evaluating of activity in line with the Peace III Aid for Peace Framework.

He pointed out that the funding available for undertaking suitable projects identified under this open call would be approximately £245,000 and that it was anticipated that individual projects would receive funding of up to £40,000.

**Good Relations Partnership,
Friday, 16th April, 2010**

He explained that, in line with current practice in grants assessment of cultural programming activity, it was proposed that consultancy support should be obtained to make initial assessments against the pre-set criteria, pending quality assurance from the Good Relations Unit, before recommendations were brought before the Partnership. The estimated cost of this support would be £5,000. He informed the Partnership that information sessions would be held in May and June to enable applicants to discuss their project ideas with staff from the Good Relations Unit and that it was envisaged that a final report would be submitted to the Partnership in August. Accordingly, he recommended that the Partnership:

- (i) approve the proposed approach and agree to the publication of an open call for proposals for Shared Cultural Space Inter-Faith and Inter-Cultural projects, in line with the assessment criteria as outlined; and
- (ii) approve the use of external consultancy support in respect of the assessments of applications received.

The Partnership adopted the recommendations and agreed that they be commended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Creative Legacies Programme

(Ms. J. McCormick, Public Art and Community Co-ordinator, Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit, attended in connection with this item.)

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The partnership will recall that the Creative Legacies is an Enhanced Development and Outreach Initiative that contributes to the development of Belfast as a shared cultural space. The initiative will help Belfast to become a strong, vibrant city, where quality of life is prioritised through its promotion as a peaceful, welcoming and open place for all to share equally.

The Creative Legacies Programme consists of ten partnership projects, six new pieces of shared public art and research and evaluation strands with a budget totalling £350,000 which is delivered by the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

Shared Public Art

As part of the Creative Legacies programme, six new pieces of shared public art are to be created. These are to be placed geographically across Belfast in North, South, East, West, Shankill and the city centre.

Belfast City Council advertised for suggestions from the community in the September Edition of City Matters 2009; there was little uptake via this advert. A letter was then sent out to over seven hundred contacts from the Peace III database and to all elected members. The deadline for expressions of interest was 12 noon on Friday 18 December 2009. The Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit received twenty seven expressions of interest. Organisations were then sent a pro forma to complete with more detail about their proposal. The deadline for proposals was 3pm on Friday, 15th January, 2010.

The total amount available for the Creative Legacies Public Art pieces is £30,000.

Creative Legacies Partnership Projects

In October 2009, following a competitive tender, ten lead organisations were selected to deliver development and outreach projects to support good relations and enhance the development of shared cultural spaces within the city. The total amount awarded to these organisations is £250,000. The projects are being managed by Officers in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

Facilitator in Personal Development

The overall project budget includes £10,000 to cover the cost of Personal Development training, tailored to suit the needs of the participants of each of the ten partnership projects. The aim of this training was to challenge insularity, build personal confidence and promote group engagement.

Key Issues

Shared Public Art

Eleven proposals have been received, with the amount requested totalling £48,500.

The geographic breakdown of the applicants are as follows: four are based in South Belfast, three in East Belfast, two in West Belfast, one in North Belfast, one in Shankill and none from the city centre.

A panel was convened on 9th February, 2010 to assess the proposed projects. This panel consisted of Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officer, Ben Simon, Community and Cultural Officer, Parks and Leisure Department and Julianne McCormick, Public Art and Community Coordinator. Joan Dempster Community Arts Officer from Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Councillor Hendron sent their apologies to the meeting.

Six organisations have been recommended funding within this programme, covering the geographic areas of East Belfast, North Belfast, South Belfast, West Belfast and Greater Shankill. As no applications were received for the City Centre, it is proposed that the next highest-scoring proposal, Donegall Pass Community Forum, which scored over the funding threshold and is also the project closest to the city centre, receives funding. The Partnership has been provided with a score sheet for each organisation.

The total cost of supporting these projects is £26,500.

Proposals Recommended for Funding

The following six proposals are recommended for support. A summary of each project is given below:

Belfast Metropolitan College	West Belfast
Clanmil Housing Association	South Belfast
Dee Street Community Centre	East Belfast
Donegall Pass Community Forum	South Belfast
Greater Shankill Partnership	Shankill
North Queen Street Community Centre	North Belfast

Belfast Metropolitan College

Belfast Metropolitan College is building a new e3 campus on the Springfield Road and wish to create a new art work at the entrance of the campus. The student community, staff and local residents in the surrounding area will be consulted with in terms of the theme for the piece and they will also participate in the making. Belfast Metropolitan College will provide in-kind funding for workshop space, equipment and materials. The creation of this piece will celebrate entrepreneurship and the creative industries, inspiring students and visitors alike. It will also help the college community take ownership of their new space.

Clanmil Housing Association

Clanmil Housing Association and Lavinia Residents Committee wish to create a wall mounted mural at the entrance of Lavinia Square, off the Ormeau Road, Stakeholders include the local residents of this new housing estate including young people. The site is already secured and landscaping, preparation of the wall and maintenance will be the responsibility of Clanmil. Clanmil will also match fund the project although the actual amount available is as yet not specified. This project will encourage social cohesion in the estate and will help promote respecting the living space and give residents ownership of the area. Clanmil hopes that the inclusion of a new piece of public art will reduce the level of litter in the area.

Dee Street Community Centre

Young people, including those who are differently abled in Dee Street Community Centre and Connswater Community Group have already carried out creative visioning of how they wish their area to look. They wish to create murals and/or street games on the ground in the green area at the bottom of Dee Street, leading to Ballymacarrett Recreation Centre; this is part of the Connswater Greenway. Community Safety is part funding the project and each community centre is contributing in-kind staff costs and some monies per partner. Other partners will include the Carew Family Centre and the Connswater greenway project itself. In creating these new public art pieces the young people hope to increase the usage and footfall of this green area by making it more attractive. There is little art in this area and the project is strong as the young people are truly engaged.

Greater Shankill Partnership

Greater Shankill Partnership proposes to create a public art piece as a gateway to the area. The themes are broad and include the history and culture of the area. All communities in the Greater Shankill area will be invited to attend consultations. Impact Training and a number of primary schools in the area will participate. Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department of Regional Development Road Service will also be partners in this project. This piece will link into the re-siting of an existing ceramic art work on the Shankill Road. The piece may also tie into signage about the local area that Belfast City Council's Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit will be placing at Peter's Hill.

North Queen Street Community Centre

North Queen Street Community centre wishes to create a 180cm² mosaic made up of one hundred tiles. They have specified they wish to work with Dr. Eleanor Wheeler who is on the Creative Legacies artists' select list. The art work will be sited on the right side of the entrance door of the community centre. Fifteen groups user groups are attached to the centre and people of all ages will be asked to participate. The themes will include people, place, buildings, groups and events in the New Lodge area. The community centre has requested £1,500 for materials, artist fee and installation and they will match fund another £1,500. The project has commitment from the staff and will be creative because of the calibre of artist involved. The approach is holistic accessing all user groups and is inter-generational.

Donegall Pass Community Forum

Donegall Pass Community Forum submitted a proposal to create an art piece on the Coyle's Place building on the corner of Ormeau Road and Donegall Pass as a statement of the tri-partite relationship between the Markets Development Association, Lower Ormeau Residents Action group and Donegall Pass Community Forum. The International Fund for Ireland has contributed monies for these communities to purchase the building as a Social Economy Project and Centre of Conflict Transformation. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive will contribute approximately £1,000 to £2,000 in partnership funding. The maintenance will be the responsibility of the owners of the building.

Proposals Not Recommended for Funding

Five organisations representing approximately 55% of the total applicants have not been recommended for support within this programme, please see the summary below:

Early Years

Early Years wish to create an art piece expressing the theme of their media initiative Children Respecting Difference programme. Although this initiative is worthy the proposal wishes to replicate the characters already created in this campaign; therefore the work would not be original. Forge Integrated Pre-school playground would be the lead organisation with four other early year settings in South Belfast not specified. Two sites were suggested for placing the art work including Ormeau or Cherryvale Parks but there is no evidence of work towards securing either of these spaces. No match funding or in-kind funding is stated. The number of children to be involved at such a young pre school age seems unrealistic.

East Belfast Mission/Skainos

East Belfast Mission/Skainos wish to access support for the recruitment and short listing process to select an artist to create a public art piece for the new civic square in the new Skainos development. No funding is currently available to progress beyond the recruitment phase to realise the piece and therefore the viability of this project was deemed high risk. No themes or detail about the art work are included in the proposal and the stakeholders and participants are stated as the local community of the Inner East Belfast area particularly Lower Newtownards and Short Strand; there is no detail of how these communities would be engaged.

Inner East Local Area Network

The Inner East Local Area Network propose two options for public art including a large granite sculpture and consisting of five pillars symbolising and celebrating the five communities in the network working together or a large wall mounted photographic based art work featuring people and places. The first idea is not viable within the available £5,000 budget. The second idea has limited creativity and innovation. The evidence of partnership working in this proposal is strong. Two areas are earmarked as shared spaces for siting the piece including the Mount or Bridge; the panel queried whether these areas are suitable as shared spaces. There is no information given about the maintenance or insurance of the art work therefore this is an area of risk.

Stephen Doherty

Stephen Doherty submitted a proposal to create the longest graffiti wall in Belfast. This piece would be sprayed onto the hoardings alongside Windsor Football Grounds and the playground at Olympia Community and Leisure Centres. The space has been confirmed for use. Partners include other artists such as Blaze FX and Kev Largey; all will be working free of charge which is good value for money. The cost of £2,000 is requested for materials only. However there is little participation in this proposal except for local people being able to watch the work being produced.

Suicide Awareness

Suicide Awareness proposed a mosaic piece tackling themes affecting young people in the local area including drugs, alcohol, self harm and suicide. There are three options for sites including an interface and a local shop; these are not detailed. Falls Community Council was another option for siting. The piece would be young person led and partners listed include the Drug Awareness team, Falls Community Council, Fáilte Feirste Thiar, the Health and Well being centre, West Belfast Partnership Board and Integrated Services; it is not clear what the roles of several of these organisations would be.

Artists' select list

A call for artists' was publicly advertised in the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News, Newsletter and on the Community Arts Forum, Visual Arts Ireland and A-N's websites. Correspondence was sent to each of the artists already on the previous Tourism, Culture and Arts select list asking them if they wished to re-register. The deadline for this call was 4pm on 15 January 2010.

One hundred and sixteen artists applied. Four applications were late and three were incomplete. Artists were asked to submit their CV, contact details, images of previous work (memory stick / slides / print/ CD Rom) and a short letter of interest or artist's statement outlining relevant experience. An assessment panel was arranged and consisted of Councillor Hendron, Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officer, Joan Dempster Community Arts Officer from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Ben Simon, Community and Cultural Officer, Parks and Leisure Department and Julianne McCormick, Public Art and Community Coordinator. The assessment panel took place on Tuesday 26 January 2010 and selection was based on the following:

- Experience of working with diverse community groups and/or working within the public realm
- Experience of project management including managing budgets and working to deadlines
- Experience of producing work of high quality and originality

Fifty nine artists were successful and their details are now held on the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's artists' select list.

Next Steps: The Commissioning Process

Each organisation will be sent a letter notifying whether they were successful or not. The unsuccessful organisations will be signposted to other potential areas of support where possible. The Public Art and Community Co-ordinator will then meet with each successful organisation and their partners to further explore the pieces of public art they wish to create. In line with the Council's Procurement Guidelines for Commissioning Public Art and EU Procurement guidelines at least four quotations will be sought from suppliers. Artists with suitable experience and track record will be approached to provide fully costed proposals for the project. These artists will be chosen from the Creative Legacies select artists' list. There will be six briefs written, one for each piece of public art. Each brief will be sent to at least four artists, depending on who the organisations choose to send it to an artist may be sent more than one brief. The organisations and their partners will then come together to decide which artist secures each commission. Selected artists will be contracted and paid through Belfast City Council. A contract for each artist will be drawn up by Council's legal department and each artist will receive a percentage of money in advance and the rest will be released upon completion and installation of each piece. Each commissioned artist will have been asked how they will consult with the wider local communities and to provide a rationale for workshops with stakeholders.

Creative Legacies Partnership Projects

Officers from the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit have met with eight of the lead organisations to monitor and evaluate progress. These projects are generally progressing on time and to budget and are meeting or exceeding expectations.

The second Creative Legacies Forum took place on 11 March. This was attended by Officers from TCA, nine lead partners representatives, CAF and Geraldine Wilkins. The Forum was briefed on Peace III monitoring and administrative requirements. Updates on the research, evaluation and public art strands of the programme were also provided.

Facilitator in Personal Development

In June 2009, four organisations were invited to quote for the Facilitator in Personal Development. Only one quotation was received, and this was not of a satisfactory standard.

Furthermore, it was considered that the ten Creative Legacies lead organisations have extensive experience of project facilitation, personal development and training, to the extent that this aspect of the project is no longer required.

We recommend that the Personal Development budget is reallocated to other project strands, specifically: £6,000 is used to help cover the costs of the development of the six pieces of shared public art across Belfast; and £4,000 is used to cover the costs of documenting the creative processes.

Schedule

The Creative Legacies Showcase/Conference has been provisionally scheduled for 3 December. The overall programme is scheduled to finish in December 2010. As reported to the February meeting of the partnership the SEUPB has agreed to the extension of the activities under Phase I of the Local Action Plans until June 2011. Project related expenditure can be re-profiled to take this extension into account.

As the Creative Legacies Programme involves partnerships between the Council and twenty-one lead contractors, the Partnership is asked to approve an extension to the programme period until the end of June 2011 as a contingency measure in the event of slippage in the planned programme.

Resource Implications

Financial

The total budget for the Creative Legacies programme is £350,000. The breakdown of this budget is as follows:

- Ten partner organisations £248,446
- Six public art pieces £36,000
- Public & Community Art Coordinator fee £20,000
- Two Conference events £13,554
- Research £10,000
- Evaluation £5,000
- Publication £6,500
- Advertising and marketing budget £6,500
- Documentation of programme £4,000

The total fund value of the Public Art works awarded is accordingly £26,500. The under spend of £3,500 from the original budget of £30,000 will be divided equally amongst the six public art projects.

Recommendations

The Partnership is asked to approve the following allocations under the Shared Public Arts Projects:

Belfast Metropolitan College is allocated £5,000
Clanmil Housing Association is allocated £5,000
Dee Street Community Centre is allocated £5,000
Donegall Pass Community Forum is allocated £5,000
Greater Shankill Partnership is allocated £5,000
North Queen Street Community Centre is allocated £1,500

The Partnership is asked to approve the reallocation of the Personal Development budget of £10,000 to support the six Shared Public Arts projects (£6,000) and for documenting the creative processes involved in each project (£4,000).

The Partnership is asked to approve an extension to the Creative Legacies Programme period until the end of June 2011.”

During discussion, a Member referred to the fact that the application for funding which had been submitted by Suicide Awareness had been unsuccessful. He made the point that suicide was an issue which impacted upon the lives of all communities across the City and suggested that the erection of a piece of public art would be an appropriate way in which to continue to maintain awareness of the issue.

In response the Public Art Co-ordinator reviewed the criteria which had been used to assess the eleven submissions for funding and explained that, in the case of Suicide Awareness, the box in the application form relating to value-for-money had been removed from that group's submission which meant that the assessment panel had been unable to allocate a score in respect of that specific criteria. As a result, the organisation's overall score had been considerably lower than the six projects which had been recommended for funding. However, she undertook to identify other elements of funding which could be used to assist Suicide Awareness with their project.

In response to further questions from the Partnership, she confirmed that the application form had been forwarded to the organisation via email and that she had not contacted the group once the omission had become apparent. She confirmed also that this application had been the only one received in which that specific referral to value-for-money had been removed. Several Members pointed out that the Council would be vulnerable to challenges from other unsuccessful applicants should it be seen to be offering preferential treatment to Suicide Awareness.

After further discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendations contained within the report and agreed that a report, providing further detailed information in respect of the application which had been submitted by Suicide Awareness, be submitted to its next meeting.

Peace III – Proposal for Youth Intervention Programme

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th March, it had considered the outcome of a review session which had been held on 25th February in relation to the issue of uncommitted funding relating to key actions within the Peace Plan. The Peace III Programme Manager reported that there was approximately £90,000 of allocated funding which had been uncommitted within the first tranche of the Peace Plan. The Partnership had been consulted on initial appropriate and strategic ways in which to make best use of this funding. He explained that, following consultation between officers from the Good Relations Unit, the Northern Ireland Alternatives, the Belfast Community Safety Partnership and a number of local community stakeholders, a proposal was being drafted to develop a youth intervention model for South Belfast along the lines of the street-by-street model which had been delivered in the east of the City by East Belfast Alternatives. The approach to implementation would be through delivery and management by the Council as the lead partner on the Good Relations Partnership, and specifically through the Community Safety Team within the Health and Environmental Services Department.

He pointed out that several of the impacts and outcomes contained within the Peace Plan would be achieved through this proposal, including:

- a reduction in tension at targeted interfaces such as the Westlink and the Donegall Pass/Markets areas;
- greater coherence in public policy and more co-ordinated public intervention;

**Good Relations Partnership,
Friday, 16th April, 2010**

- increased cross-community contact;
- increased capacity for engagement; and
- a decrease in incidents at bonfire sites and anti-social behaviour.

He reported further that the proposal sought to fill a gap of a lack of direct engagement with the issue of anti-social activity and the impact which that had had on wider community relations issues. It sought also to develop new engagement models on the issues faced locally by victims and would add value to the work of other Peace III projects operating already within the South Belfast area. The overall co-ordinated approach which the proposal sought to develop would provide a mechanism for all local stakeholders to sustain momentum and create greater co-ordination on these important issues. Accordingly, he requested that the Partnership approve the proposal, as outlined, pending its approval by the Special European Union Programmes Body.

During discussion, a Member pointed out that the Action Plan had indicated that a worker from within Alternatives had been seconded to act as a Manager and stated that the local community had been unaware of such an appointment having been made.

The Partnership adopted the recommendation of the Peace III Programme Manager and agreed that a report in respect of the recruitment of a Manager for South Belfast Alternatives be submitted to its next meeting.

Good Relations Plan 2010-2013

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Purpose of report

To outline the next Good Relations Plan in Belfast aligned to the Council’s current Corporate Plan.

Relevant Background Information

The first Belfast Good Relations Plan was published in 2007 and endorsed by all the political parties and key agencies in the city. Following this, there has been a series of discussions with elected representatives and with the Partnership to identify priorities for a new collaborative good relations plan in Belfast.

In October 2009, the Good Relations Partnership recommended the broad principles of a series of good relations actions, in line with the Council’s Corporate Plan. At the request of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, officers over the intervening months have conducted a series of meetings to explore the next framework for good relations in the city.

Key Issues

The core assumption behind this refreshed Good Relations Plan and framework is that good relations and community cohesion remain vital ingredients for the city's future development. This is based on ongoing discussions with Members and partner organisations.

In the context of the Corporate Plan and its commitment to thematic approaches, it is proposed that there are multiple possibilities which exist in city management to deliver good relations and community cohesion outcomes.

This refreshed framework and plan still affirms the first plan's vision for the city and the values framework. It is proposed that in next Good Relations Plan, the 4 broad goals remain relevant:

- securing shared city space
- transforming contested space
- developing shared cultural space
- building shared organisational space

However, it is proposed that we seek to achieve them under the 6 strategic themes of the Council and this becomes our framework for actions:

- Better leadership - strong, fair, together;
- Better opportunities for success across the city;
- Better care for Belfast's environment - a clean, green city now and for the future;
- Better support for people and communities;
- Better services - listening and delivering;
- Better value for money - a can-do, accountable, efficient council.

By shifting the good relations actions under these 6 strategic themes, it will allow us to centrally locate the good relations agenda under the Council's overall aim, which is to improve the quality of life now and for future generations for the people of Belfast. Importantly, this allows us to measure the impact we have on one of the key determinants of people's quality of life in the city and securing Belfast as an attractive, competitive and safe city.

It is also proposed that the Partnership might consider this as the framework for the next bid to the Peace III Programme, allowing it to demonstrate the legacy of the EU investment into the centre of the quality of life agenda in the city.

Within Council, the role of the Good Relations Partnership is to provide advice and guidance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and, seek to 'quality assure' the good relations outcomes during implementation.

The key areas for action are:

- i. **Good Relations Leadership Programme – advocating for and supporting strong political and agency leadership in delivering a shared and better future for all in Belfast, including an ongoing private discussion forum to explore issues related to city transformation, managing diversity and other related issues.**
- ii. **Iconic shared space capital project – a capital project which is designed, programmed and managed on the principles of shared space.**
- iii. **Shared Routes – a renewing the routes initiative in neighbourhoods located at the interface, linking environmental regeneration with good relations.**
- iv. **Connectivity and mobility for meeting - the design of a safe, shared path network across city and between shared space destinations, including working with Department of Regional Development and Translink to improve connectivity in the city.**
- v. **New city, new spaces – developing a civic pride and a modern brand and a series of innovative shared space events in the city centre, e.g. cultural events.**
- vi. **The shared city's natural resources – connecting the open spaces of the city promoting access to the city's natural shared spaces.**
- vii. **Migrants and Minority Ethnic Forum – an inter-agency forum with an action plan supporting newcomers to the city.**
- viii. **Interfaces regeneration strategy – supporting improved co-ordination in the regeneration of those neighbourhoods located at the interface.**
- ix. **Linked City – a series of actions related to improving health and well-being in relation to tackling health inequalities and building trust.**

- x. **City of neighbourhoods** – the development of an inclusive charter of principles, used to support the delivery of a series of linked cultural projects on culture and identity across several neighbourhoods which are unique, welcoming and open to all.
- xi. **Towards a Shared City** – a capacity-building project to support the transformation of a city emerging from conflict and division through community planning.
- xii. **Shared by Design** – a framework of principles and criteria on ‘shared by design’ is developed by the Council for integration into relevant internal and external strategies supporting the physical development of an open, welcoming and shared city.
- xiii. **Good Relations return on investment** – a performance management model which measures good relations outcomes and demonstrably quantifies the public value of intervention.

Some of these collaborative actions are already underway and some of them are in ongoing development. Also, similar to the first plan, it is proposed that statutory organisations will ‘slot’ their individual actions under the framework. The framework will stand for 3 years and the action plan element will be updated on a regular basis.

3. Next steps

It is proposed that the draft plan and framework is launched for consultation, with the final, complete action plan published in early autumn.

Resource Implications

Financial

None at present. Each action would in due course produce business plans and detailed resource requirements.

Decision required

- The Partnership recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the attached framework and plan be issued for consultation.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

**Good Relations Partnership,
Friday, 16th April, 2010**

Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 11th September, it had approved the re-opening of the Good Relations Fund with immediate effect, subject to a number of changes to the level of grant-aid which could be provided. The Partnership was reminded further that, at its meeting on 13th November, it had deferred the awarding of grants to those organisations which had existing grants still active until such times as their existing grant process had been completed. Accordingly, the criteria had been amended to provide that an organisation could not be awarded a second grant whilst a first one was still active.

She reported that the first call for the 2010/2011 financial year had been opened on 1st February, with a closing date for applications of noon on 19th March. As agreed by the Partnership, the next call would open on 3rd May and would end on 21st May. She submitted a list of applications which had been received against the Fund by 19th March, together with officer assessment summaries of the applications.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed unanimously that grant-aid be awarded under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive to the following organisations:

<u>Ref No</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u>
514/1761	Queen's Film Theatre	1000
771/1770	Tides Training	3000
373/1779	Ballymac Friendship Trust	3360
596/1777	Barnardos Tuar Ceatha Services	900
401/1749	The Bridge Community Association	1000
690/1768	Di-verse	700
884/1754	Holy Cross Nursery School	1000
894/1776	South West Action Team	5000
897/1782	Belmont and District Council of Churches	475
890/1769	Ulster Hall	1660
887/1763	Titanic Schools Project	1000
759/1756	Gort na Mona Historical Society	3000
879/1741	Children for Peace in Ireland	2100
880/1744	The Corrymeela Community	775
881/1745	Dundela Infants School PTA	500
460/1746	Lower Woodstock Community Association	500
882/1747	Friends of the Grove Park	1000
883/1752	Donegall Pass and Markets Community Centres	1000
243/1751	Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society	10000
892/1772	Children's Law Centre	800
893/1775	Donegall Pass Community Forum	1000
895/1780	Holy Trinity Youth Centre	6000
640/1755	Inverary Community Centre Committee	1000
685/1759	Ligoniel Improvement Association	2750
874/1766	Small Steps Adult Education Group	5000

<u>Ref No</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u>
885/1758	Young Enterprise NI	1000
304/1765	Conflict Trauma Research Centre	5000
404/1778	St. John Vianney Youth Centre	4230
695/1757	Northern Ireland Children's Enterprise (NICE)	3000
754/1748	Ashton Community Trust – REAL Project	1000
891/1771	North Belfast Interface Network	1000
896/1781	Place of Victory for all Nations Belfast (PVN)	800
886/1760	Balmoral Golf Club Ltd	600
TOTAL		71,150

The Partnership agreed also that the application from CHARTER NI be deferred for one month to enable additional information to be provided.

International Day of Peace

(Ms. A. Chada declared an interest in this item.)

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that the United Nations' International Day of Peace, which had been established originally by an United Nations resolution in 1982, was now marked on 21st September each year. She reported that the event provided an opportunity for individuals, communities and organisations to highlight efforts to end conflict and promote practical aspects of peace. Each year, events were organised to commemorate and celebrate Peace Day, ranging in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums in which thousands of people participated. Within Belfast, the Peace Day campaign was headed by the organisation Springboard, of which Ms. A. Chada, a member of the Good Relations Partnership, was Executive Director. Over 600 individuals, groups, politicians, community groups, schools, churches and public sector organisations had now joined the campaign. She informed the Partnership that the day was of particular significance for Belfast as the City had moved from decades of violence to building a sustainable peace.

She reminded the Partnership that, last year, the Lord Mayor had played a key role in the event and suggested that the Good Relations Partnership should host an event to mark International Day of Peace 2010 in the City Hall on 21st September, with the Lord Mayor once again being invited. The Good Relations Partnership's recognition of the Day and attendance thereat would send out a powerful message that it condemned the use of violence and supported peacemaking. She added that, in order to raise local awareness, information on International Peace Day would be included on the Council's website and would be circulated to all Council employees through the Intercom magazine.

The Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the holding on 21st September of an event to mark the International Day of Peace.

397

**Good Relations Partnership,
Friday, 16th April, 2010**

Community Relations Week 2010

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that Good Relations Week 2010 would be taking place between 26th April and 2nd May and circulated for its attention a programme providing information on approximately 150 events being held to mark the occasion.

Chairman