

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2013

MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);
Alderman Stoker; and
Councillors Attwood, Kyle, Mac Giolla Mhín and Reynolds.

External Members: Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Dr. C. Hughes, Belfast Regeneration Office;
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management;
Ms. C. Moore, Irish Congress of Trade Unions;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church; and
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

Also attended: Ms. D. O'Loan, Community Relations Council/Pobal.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, PEACE III Programme Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported from Ms. A. Chada, Archdeacon B. Dodds, Mr. R. Galway and Mr. P. Mackel.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th October were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declaration of Interest

Mr. S. Brennan declared an interest in respect of agenda item 3, viz., PEACE III – Implementation Update, in that he had facilitated recently a seminar for the Belfast Interface Project, which was delivering the Inner East/Outer West project under the PEACE III Programme.

Presentation – Evangelical Alliance

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th October, it had agreed that representatives of the Evangelical Alliance be invited to attend its next meeting in order to provide details on a Good Relationships Commitment which it had suggested the Council might wish to adopt and which would guide the future conduct of its Elected Members. It was reported that Ms. C. Prentice and Mr. D. Smyth, representing the organisation, were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Smyth informed the Partnership that the Evangelical Alliance, which had been formed in 1846, provided a service to around two million evangelical Christians across the United Kingdom and had a creditable record of influencing public policy for

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the benefit of all of society in Northern Ireland. He highlighted the unrest and other issues which had arisen following the Council's decision around the flying of the Union Flag on the City Hall and pointed out that, if good relations and respect were expected to be displayed on the City's streets, an example should be set by Members of the Council. To that end, the Evangelical Alliance, whilst recognising that it was natural within the political environment for Elected Members to disagree strongly on certain issues, was calling upon them to sign up to a Good Relationships Commitment. Such a move would require them to refrain from personal attacks and treat each other with common civility, dignity and respect and would, in turn, promote community confidence, create confidence within Members themselves and lead to improved decision-making.

In response, the Chairman (Councillor Hendron) informed the representatives that Elected Members were required to abide by an agreed Code of Conduct, which was broadly similar to the Good Relationships Commitment being proposed by the Evangelical Alliance. She highlighted the positive relationships which existed within the Council's Committees and working groups, including the Good Relations Partnership, and made the point that those relationships played an essential part in the decision-making process. She then thanked Ms. Prentice and Mr. Smyth and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that the request by the Evangelical Alliance for Elected Members to sign up to a Good Relationships Commitment be referred to the Political Parties and that they be recommended to adopt the Commitment.

PEACE III – Implementation Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Purpose of report

To update the Partnership on implementation of the Belfast PEACE III Plan.

PEACE III Programme Extension

The Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) has issued a revised Letter of Offer to Belfast City Council as Lead Partner for the PEACE III Plan to allow for closure of the current Programme by 30 June 2014. The revised Letter of Offer does not allow for any project activity into 2014. A meeting with the Director of the Joint Technical Secretariat in SEUPB to make the case for extension of project activity for key projects under the Theme of Transforming Contested Space in the PEACE III Plan has been scheduled for 11th November.

Programme Performance – Update on Indicators

In line with the monitoring and evaluation methodology (Aid for Peace) required by the PEACE III Programme, a range of

performance indicators were agreed with the SEUPB and the Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA). Data is collected on a quarterly basis from each project and collated by the PEACE III team. Following analysis of the latest returns from each project a summary of progress against each agreed indicator is attached to this report. Work is ongoing with projects and with SEUPB and NISRA to ensure that final reporting will be accurate and will fully reflect the outputs achieved under the programme.

Project Extensions

Belfast Interface Project - Inner East/ Outer West Project (035652)

The project recently produced a photography exhibition which was displayed at the Waterfront Hall in October. The Project has now requested an extension until the 30th November to allow for final production of a complementary booklet documenting the exhibition and the stories behind each photograph.

Training for Women Network - Visions of Peacebuilding Project (035904)

The project has not yet delivered the final exhibition pieces as anticipated however some progress has been made on production of proofs based upon content provided by project participants. In addition the project has delivered OCN training to over 200 participants. Work is continuing with the project to ensure completion of the agreed outputs within the available timescale for the PEACE III Plan while ensuring eligible expenditure and compliance with programme requirements. It is proposed to grant a further extension to the project to allow for completion of agreed exhibition materials and accompanying booklet along with final accreditation of participants who have received training. The proposed extension would be until December subject to provision of supporting documentation by the project in relation to their current claim and progress report submitted on 28th October.

Resource Implications

Financial Implications - None at present

HR Implications - None at present

Equality Implications - None at present

Recommendation

The Partnership is requested to note the contents of this report and to approve the proposed project extensions for the Inner East/Outer West and the Visions of Peacebuilding Projects.”

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation.

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Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund

The Partnership was advised that the final call for applications for funding under the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund for 2013/2014 had been made on 2nd September. The Good Relations Manager reported that, by the closing date, a total of sixty applications had been received, requesting in total £294,297. Those had been assessed using pre-agreed criteria, following which fifty submissions had been recommended for funding. She pointed out that 75% of the expenditure would be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister under the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership agree that grant-aid of £104,387 be awarded under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive to the following organisations:

Ref No	Organisation	Recommended Amount, up to £
1191/3225	36th Ulster Division Memorial Association	5,000
790/3226	An Eochair	3,900
569/3229	Arts Etká	2,150
243/3194	Ballymacarrett Arts and Cultural Society	3,000
955/3193	Belfast South Community Resources	1,800
348/3224	Chinese Welfare Association	3,000
1254/3222	Include Youth	2,250
325/3219	Indian Community Centre	1,000
950/3210	Northern Ireland Children's Enterprise	5,000
345/3211	South Belfast Roundtable	5,000
1336/3216	Springboard Opportunities Ltd	1,000
1330/3191	Santos Football Club	720
552/3202	Fane Street Primary School	1,000
688/3212	Botanic Primary School	1,820
1337/3217	Friendship for Integrated Development Association NI (FIDA NI)	1,000
1120/3223	Sirocco Youth Football Club	550
795/3227	Success Dragon & Lion Dance Association	500
1344/3235	EPIC	1,000
303/3232	Ardoyne Youth Club	4,300
1241/3192	Friends of the Fallen	1,300
712/3240	Golden Thread Gallery	3,000
916/3248	Lower Oldpark Community Association	3,000
1287/3190	Marrowbone Residents Association	2,350
951/3208	Seaview Enterprises	1,000
1345/3242	St John's Youth Centre	1,000
1004/3200	St Patrick's College & Boys' Model Community Relations programme	2,052

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1185/3243	The Fellowship of Messines Association	2,820
831/3215	WAVE Trauma Centre	2,660
1343/3234	Whiterock Crèche Association	520
1020/3237	The Wider Circle	2,000
1338/3220	Indian Malayali Association	400
1341/3231	Knocknagoney Youth	1,000
1334/3207	Francis Hutcheson Institute	500
645/3241	Indian Senior Citizen's Club	400
1340/3230	NI Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM)	5,000
949/3189	PeacePlayers International – Northern Ireland (PPPI –NI)	6,520
568/3197	Sandy Row Residents Association	1,000
380/3244	South Belfast Male Care	1,760
1268/3204	Rosario Youth Centre	1,200
1215/3238	South Belfast Alternatives	2,000
1042/3236	Norman Whiteside Sports Facility	810
1346/3247	Prison Fellowship of Northern Ireland	875
1335/3213	Townsend Street Social Outreach Centre	615
1339/3228	Andersonstown Malayee Association	400
845/3239	Belfast Metropolitan College	5,000
383/3246	Bryson An Munia Tober	1,000
1343/3233	Gleann Football Club	450
322/3245	Lower Shankill Community Association	2,605
1139/3218	Mount Community Association	3,000
1332/3199	Northern Ireland Orienteering	4,160
TOTAL		104,387

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

Good Relations Audit 2014/2017

The Partnership was reminded that the Council was required, under the terms of its Letter of Offer from the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister, regarding the delivery of a Goods Relations Programme, to undertake every three years an audit of Good Relations need across the City. The Good Relations Manager reported that the last such audit had been conducted in 2011, the outcome of which had informed the development of the Good Relations Action Plans which had been delivered subsequently in support of Good Relations in the City.

She explained that, in 2015, the Belfast City Council Boundary would, under the Reform of Local Government, be expanded to include a number of areas, comprising in total around 22,000 households and 56,000 residents, which were located currently within the Castlereagh, Lisburn and North Down council areas.

She informed the Partnership that the Council was now required to undertake a new audit in order to inform the development of its Good Relations Action Plan for the period 2014-2015 within its current boundary. It was proposed that an additional audit be carried out to assess requirements within those areas which would, in 2015, be moving into the Belfast City Council area, with a view to informing the development of

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Action Plans up to 2017. That audit would be undertaken in collaboration with the aforementioned three councils.

After discussion, during which the Good Relations Manager confirmed that the views of community groups in those areas which, in 2015, would be moving into the Belfast City Council area, would be sought at some point in the audit process, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that funding of £8,000 be made available to appoint an independent external organisation to undertake the audits and formulate the associated Action Plans.

Proposed Public Art Project – Northumberland Street

The Partnership was advised that the Arts Council for Northern Ireland's Re-Imaging Communities programme, which had been re-launched recently under the banner 'Building Peace through the Arts: Reimagining Communities', sought to support communities in the removal of paramilitary murals and their replacement with quality artworks. The Good Relations Manager reported that representatives of the programme were working currently with the West Belfast Athletic and Cultural Society, with a view to replacing a paramilitary mural on a wall at the junction of Northumberland Street and the Shankill Road with a public art piece, comprised of bronze, in honour of the artist William Conor, who had lived and worked in that area.

She confirmed that the project was being funded jointly by the Arts Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. However a shortfall of £13,179 had been identified, which was required to carry out the necessary environmental improvements around the site and the Society had requested the Council to make some level of funding available to progress that work. She pointed out that the Good Relations Unit was keen to work with the organisation to progress the project and that the Unit had been requested to provide representation on both the tender evaluation panel and the project's steering panel. Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership request the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to approve funding of £5,000 towards the aforementioned art project, 75% of which could be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister through its District Council Good Relations Programme.

The Partnership adopted the recommendation and agreed that groups planning to undertake artwork projects in the area associated with the artist Gerard Dillon should be encouraged to commemorate him in a similar way.

Opening of St. Malachy's Youth Centre

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that the St. Malachy's Youth Centre, which had been built recently in the Markets area of the City, was due to be opened officially on 11th December. She explained that the Centre, which had obtained funding of £70,000 through the Council's Local Investment Fund, would form part of a network of youth providers in south Belfast, involving schools and youth organisations, and that it would work in partnership with the Donegall Pass Community Centre. Invitations for the opening event had been extended to Elected Members, church representatives, statutory agencies, community organisations and minority ethnic communities. She pointed out that the event represented a positive community

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relations opportunity for that part of the City and, accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership request the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to make available funding of up to £400 for hospitality associated with the opening of the Centre.

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

Typhoon Haiyan

The Partnership agreed that a letter be forwarded on its behalf to leaders of the Filipino community in the City expressing solidarity following the recent devastation and loss of life suffered in the Philippines as a result of Typhoon Haiyan.

Chairman