

## **MEETING OF DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Friday, 5th December, 2014**

Members present: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hendron)  
(Chairman);  
Aldermen Ekin, Robinson and Rodgers;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Hanna, Kyle,  
McVeigh and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. G. Miller, Director of Property and Projects;  
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apology**

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Hutchinson.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd October were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Memorabilia in the City Hall – Presentation**

The Group was advised that Sara and Michael Lyons, Redhead Consulting, were in attendance to provide an update on the progress achieved to date in relation to the Memorabilia in the City Hall Project. The consultants indicated that there were a number of decisions which the Group would be required to take for further recommendation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. This included the change of position of two of the stained glass windows, that is, the Celtic Myths and Legends window and the Ulster Defence Regiment window, a Refreshment Strategy, whereby a number of the exhibition spaces were being designed with a view to ease of updating and refreshing, proposals for the memorabilia layout on the rotunda and two options for including the “30 Years” of troubles. Option 1 would be part of Zone D ‘The City Speaks’ and would be based on a range of media reports; and Option 2 would be part of Zone E ‘The City Commemorates and would be based on victims with the theme of ‘The Lost Lives’, with both topics being presented in a way that required no written narrative or subjective interpretation. The consultants then tabled a number of papers and outlined the rationale for each of the proposals.

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After discussion, the Group recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agree the following:

- (1) that the Celtic Myths and Legends window be relocated from its current position to the East end of the front corridor, ground floor, City Hall and that the Ulster Defence Regiment stained glass window be replaced in the space vacated by the Celtic Myths and Legends window;
- (2) to adopt a Refreshment Strategy for a number of the exhibition spaces;
- (3) to include both options for the “30 Years”, that is, Option 1 – the City Speaks and Option 2 – the City Commemorates, with the consultants to look at both options on a lesser scale in the narrative and that the content be reviewed by Academics; and
- (4) to defer consideration of the proposals for the layout of the memorabilia in the rotunda to enable political discussions to take place.

**Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2016**

The Group approved the submission of the undernoted report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and commended the recommendations therein:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the Council’s ongoing work around the Decade of Centenaries and that Strand Two is currently in operation which covers the period 1914-1918. It was agreed that Strand two would cover the period including World War I, including the Somme, and the Easter Rising. Major exhibitions would be commissioned covering these two events as well as Civic Dinners to mark both commemorations.**
- 1.2 A series of events and programmes have been planned up until March 2015 which have previously been agreed by Council in October 2014 and these are advertised on the Council’s website.**
- 1.3 In addition, at its meeting on the 29th November 2013, the Joint Party Group Leaders Forum and the Historic Centenaries Working Group agreed in principle to hosting the outdoor exhibition ‘Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace’. The group agreed to grant approval in principle to the exhibition being displayed in Belfast during 2016, subject to the costs being reasonable and appropriate funding being made available and**

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subject to the agreement of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

- 1.4 At the last meeting of the Diversity Working Group, the Good Relations Manager was delegated to work up costings and specifications for either two separate or one exhibition for 2016, as well as Civic Events and additional outreach and engagement programmes and costs associated with the staging of the Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace exhibition.

**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 Since the meeting in October, the Good Relations Manager has met with members from all the parties represented on the Diversity Working Group and there is a broad consensus that one exhibition should be commissioned which would cover the year of 1916 considering a number of themes and events including the Easter Rising and the Somme. Members were also keen that the programme of events should be interactive and reach out to a wide audience.
- 2.2 Members also participated in a study visit to Dublin on 14th November 2014 during which they viewed a number of key sites as part of the process to develop the programme to be delivered in 2016. A copy of the programme for the day is attached for information. The feedback from the Members was that the visit was very beneficial in terms of broadening understanding and looked at space for commemoration, focusing on human stories and how we commemorate.
- 2.3 Members will also be aware that the Irish government have officially launched Ireland 2016, an initiative which is led by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to reflect on the legacy of the period – this will include capital projects, state events, and various programmes relating to culture, young people and education etc. The five intersecting themes are: Remember, Reconcile, Imagine, Present and Celebrate.
- 2.4 As discussed, at the last meeting, Officers have met with a number of organisations to discuss the potential for collaboration and funding. OFMDFM have indicated that a proposal would be considered but would need to demonstrate clear good relations outcomes and bear in mind the current funding climate. They also advised that DCAL should be involved as the lead Department and a request for a meeting has also been sent to officials within the Department of Culture, Arts Arts and Leisure. Officers have also had a meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and are being

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directed to Officials who would be most relevant to speak with about the Decade of Centenaries.

**2.5** Members may wish to note that for Strand One covering 1912-1914, a budget of £99,000 was set aside by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for a large programme of events with OFMDFM contributing an additional £47,000. This amount of £146,000 covered the exhibition, one civic dinner and a series of events and activities around several other themes and publicity and educational activities.

**2.7** As requested, Officers are drawing up a specification for one exhibition – as previously reported the cost for the Shared History- Different Allegiance exhibition was approximately £70,000 and it is estimated that a similar exhibition for 2016 could cost in the region of £80,000.

Expenditure on additional elements such as artwork, drama, lectures, community outreach programme and hospitality based on the previous strand was approximately £94,000. This would bring the total amount required to undertake the work for 2016 to £174,000.

**2.8** As to some of the events around the period, Officers would hope to include part of the programme within the Good Relations Programme for 2016/2017 but would also look to the potential of collaborating with other agencies/bodies where appropriate. Officers will also continue conversations to seek external funding where appropriate.

**2.9** In relation to the Fields Of Battle- Lands of Peace exhibition which is a separate exhibition, Officers have spoken to the exhibition Director and have been advised that further details would be available in the New Year. Costings for this project have been previously been estimated at £40,000. Officers would emphasise that the organisers would have to seek funds centrally in the first instance for such an exhibition as this amount is not included in the costings outlined above.

**2.10** In the meantime, as part of further preparation, Members may wish to approve that an event be held in the City Hall which looks at the issue of commemoration, the reaffirming of the principles approved by the Council and ethical remembering. This would be dependent on funding being made available from OFMDFM through the Good Relations Programme but could be undertaken in conjunction with other agencies involved in work on the Decade of Centenaries before the end of March.

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**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 Financial**

The cost of delivering one exhibition and associated activities and events for the period of 2016 based on previous experience would be in the region of £174,000. Apart from what has already been agreed for this current financial year's Decade of Centenaries activities, there is no budget for activities beyond March 2015.

Funding for the Fields of Battle- Lands of Peace would require additional funding estimated in the region of £40,000. There is currently no budget set aside for this exhibition.

The event to be held in the City Hall as outlined in 2.10 is estimated to be in the region of £1,000 with 75% being recoupable from OFMDFM through the Good Relations Programme.

**3.2 Human Resources: None at present**

**3.3 Asset and Other Implications: None**

**4 Recommendation and decision**

**4.1 To make recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee on the following:**

1. To note the information in the above report in relation to the preparation for the decade of Centenaries
2. To agree there will be one Council commissioned exhibition to cover the period of 1916 incorporating a number of themes as well as the key events.
3. To approve that an event be held on the theme of commemoration, reaffirming the principles approved by the Council in relation to the Decade of Centenaries and ethical remembering up to a cost of £1,000 depending on sufficient funding being made available by OFMDFM by the end of March.
4. To note that the estimated cost of commissioning one exhibition, civic events and activities will cost in the region of £174,000 and to consider asking the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to fund the programme to a similar level as the previous strand at a cost of £129,000 with authority given to officers to seek external

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**funding and a report brought back to the Committee in due course.**

- 5. To note that an additional cost of £40,000 would be required to host the outdoor exhibition Fields of Battle-Lands of Peace and that Officers will bring back a further report when further detail around costs and sources of funding is known.**

**5 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

- 5.1 The Working Group agreed in October 2011 that events marking the Decade of Centenaries would operate under a set of agreed principles and also provides an opportunity for the Council to contribute to a better understanding of the past and to promote respect for the complexity of our shared history.**
- 5.2 The already agreed programmes for this current year within the Decade of Centenaries are contained within the current District Council's Good Relations Action Plan, which was screened out in February 2014, following a screening exercise."**

**Request regarding Bert Mason**

The Group was advised that the Lord Mayor's office had received correspondence from the office of Dara Murphy, TD, Minister for European Affairs and Data Protection, asking assistance for one of his constituents, James O'Sullivan. The correspondence advised that the Long Range Planning Committee (Lions Club) had commissioned a bust cast in bronze by an artist Mick Wilkins from Cork to honour the past international President of the Lions Club, Bert Mason. The bust was to be cast at a foundry in Belfast and a meeting had been held with the previous Lord Mayor of Belfast in January, 2014 to discuss possible sites/locations for the bust.

It was reported that Bert Mason had been born in Donaghadee and was the Chief Executive Officer of a printing and packaging company. In relation to a link to Belfast, he was a Charter President of the Belfast Lions Club, the first Lions Club in Northern Ireland and was a Lion for over forty years. He was elected President of the Lions Club International and died in 2007. An annual humanitarian award given by the Lions had been named after him.

The Group agreed that the matter be referred to the Lions Club of Belfast.

**Request from the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation**

The Group was advised that a request had been received by the Lord Mayor's office from the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation to consider the possibility of

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naming streets, schools, public spaces or buildings under the name of Raoul Wallenberg or to erect a bust with the aim of spreading his legacy in the City.

The Group agreed that the Chief Executive write to the Foundation indicating that it would not be appropriate at this time to consider the request.

**Orange Community Network**

The Group was advised that the that the Orange Community Network had written to each of the new Shadow Councils asking them to support their new regional strategic plan by financing the employment of a dedicated Community Development Officer for the Council term at an approximate cost of £30,000 per annum.

The Network was a community development support organisation which catered for groups operating approximately 800 Orange Halls in Northern Ireland. The Groups served ranged from community and rural development organisations to groups promoting activities and services for young people, women and older people. The Network also worked with bands and supported community development work undertaken directly by the Loyal Orders. The aim of the Network was to encourage confidence building within the Orange community and facilitate the enhancement of the community development capacity through animation, training, networking and information sharing, as well as provision of other direct support groups. It also had a cultural dimension in response to the interests and activities of its members.

The Community Development Manager reported that it was widely accepted that some of the Protestant communities had been relatively slow to recognise the relevance of community development in meeting their needs. In practical terms, the Orange Community Network indicated they had been working from their inception in 2005 to open up the possibility and potential of community development for a range of differing groupings. Their work had been supported by the International Fund for Ireland, the Big Lottery Fund and latterly through the European Union Peace Programme 2007-13. The Peace funding had enabled the Network to take forward the “Stepping Towards Reconciliation in Positive Engagement” project in partnership with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. The Network had pointed to their success in supporting traditionally “hard to reach” groups citing a relationship which was based on trust and appropriate support and had been independently evaluated as a conduit and supportive resource for positive leadership and work in relation to cultural expression, community safety and community development.

The Big Lottery had recently supported the Orange Community Network to prepare a Strategic Plan for the period 2015-20. The Network had embarked on a series of meetings with Elected Representatives and officers across the new eleven Councils to outline their programmes to date and to seek financial support for a network of community development staff in each of the new Council areas.

The Group was advised that there were no relevant Belfast City Council grant programmes open to applications which could contribute to staff costs. The Small Grant Programme would be openly advertised later this month and there was currently no other project available to allow such a post to be created.

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The Group agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended not to finance the employment of a community development worker as outlined but that Council officers investigate what other opportunities and collaborative working could be undertaken with the Network.

Chairman