

## **GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY, 11th JANUARY 2016**

### **MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Attwood, Johnston, Walsh and Sandford.

External Members: Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Ms. A. Chada, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;  
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Ms. A. Deighan, Good Relations Officer;  
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Lead Operations Officer/Head of  
Environmental Health;  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Bradshaw, Rev. L. Carroll, Mr. P. Mackel, Mrs. M. Marken, Ms. C. Moore, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Mr. U. Tok.

#### **Minutes**

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

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Presentation – Building the Belfast Agenda**

(Mrs. S. McNicholl, Strategic Planning and Policy Manager and Mr. D. Cuthbert, Community Planning Project Officer attended in connection with this item.)

The Chairman welcomed the Officers to the meeting. He reminded the Partnership that it had agreed to receive an update presentation on the progress of the Belfast Agenda from a Good Relations perspective.

Mrs. S. McNicholl commenced the presentation by outlining the objective of the Community Planning Function, explaining that it is “a process which helps public agencies to work together with the community to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people’s lives.” She explained that the long term objective was to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

**Good Relations Partnership,  
Monday 11th January, 2016**

The Members were advised that the Belfast Agenda was the Council's framework for progressing Community Planning and had been used as the basis for developing the City's first Community Plan, which had identified the:

- vision for Belfast;
- outcomes for residents and the city;
- priorities and actions (i.e. details on how to progress the outcomes over a four year period); and
- commitment from partners (getting firm agreements from the Council's city partners to deliver programmes, initiatives and resources that would address the priorities identified).

She reviewed the extent of the work which had been carried out and highlighted a number of activities which had been undertaken, which included the following achievements to date:

- completion of a Belfast City Council Residents' survey;
- a 'Plan on a Page';
- the Belfast Conversation; and
- a review of existing plans and strategies;

She then drew the Members' attention to the Belfast Profile, detailing the things the people who had been surveyed liked about Belfast; the City's vibrancy, its people, natural environment, built environment and its relatively compact size. She proceeded to detail where people would like to see improvements; its connectivity and transport; Good Relations issues, issues that limit city vibrancy, city governance issues and the built environment.

She summarised by reporting that some of the emerging areas for the development of outcomes for Belfast in 2030 were:

- a thriving and prosperous economy;
- a welcoming, safe, fair & inclusive city;
- people in Belfast fulfilling their potential;
- people in Belfast enjoying good health and wellbeing; and
- a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally friendly city.

Mr. D. Cuthbert concluded the presentation by detailed the proposed next steps, which included:

- wider engagement and consultation on the themes of the emerging framework (Spring/Summer 2016);
- governance developments and relationships with existing partnerships; and
- the medium/short term Priorities.

**Good Relations Partnership,  
Monday 11th January, 2016**

The Officers then answered a number of questions around implementation and monitoring of the Community Plan and the Belfast Agenda. They advised that the Community Plan was very much an evolving document and welcomed the Good Relations Partnership's input. It was therefore agreed that it would be beneficial for the Officers to periodically attend future meetings of the Partnership to continue to engage with the Members and to update them on the progress made.

At this stage in the proceedings Mrs. S. McNicholl and Mr. D. Cuthbert left the meeting.

**Racial Equality Strategy**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that the Northern Ireland Executive had recently published a Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2025). She reminded Members that a draft Strategy had been published for consultation in 2014 and that the Good Relations Partnership had, at that stage, submitted a response.

She advised the Members that the purpose of this strategy was to establish a framework for action by Government Departments (and others), to set out clearly how the Government Departments would create the conditions and circumstances to tackle racial inequalities, eradicate racism and hate crime and promote good race relations and social cohesion.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

**Good Relations Conference**

The Good Relations Partnership noted that a Good Relations Conference would take place in the Girdwood Community Hub on 20th January, as part of a programme being organised to mark the opening of the facility.

**Holocaust Memorial Day**

The Good Relations Officer reminded the Members that the Council was hosting the Staged Reading of the Holocaust Play 'The Suitcase', to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in City Hall, on 25th January at 7.00 p.m. She reported that there had been great interest in attending this event and as a result there was a reserve list for those currently awaiting tickets.

**District Council Good Relations Programme Budget**

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised Members that some re-profiling was required in relation to the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) budget. She requested approval to reallocate £15,000 from the existing DCGRP budget underspend for the purchase of two new beacons and also sought permission for the reallocation of additional funds for the repair and maintenance of the existing beacons. She confirmed that there was adequate funding available within the existing budgets.

**Good Relations Partnership,  
Monday 11th January, 2016**

The Members agreed the reallocation of £15,000 from the DCGRP budget underspend for the purchase of two new beacons and further agreed the reallocation of additional funds to enable the repair and maintenance of the existing beacons.

Chairperson