

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2016

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mrs. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director;
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Attwood and Nicholl,
Mr. S. Brennan and Mrs. J. Hawthorne.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th November were taken as read and signed
as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Change in Membership

The Chairperson welcomed Mrs. G. Duggan to her first meeting and reminded
the Members that she had replaced Mr. H. Black as the Belfast City Centre
Management's representative.

Presentation by the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition

The Chairperson reminded the Partnership that it had agreed that
representatives from the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition could
present to the Partnership regarding its work.

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The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. N. Armstrong, Dr. D. Bryan, Mr. T. Hartley, Professor Tom Hennessey and Mr. M. Sharma.

The representatives thanked the Partnership for the opportunity to present and commenced the presentation by advising that the Commission would not just focus on flags and emblems but would look at the broader issues of identity, culture and tradition.

The Partnership noted the specific role of the Commission as follows:

- to identify and acknowledge the opportunities presented by having a rich diverse community in which cultural expression could be celebrated;
- to consult with the established and new elements of the community;
- to identify key areas of commonality as well as difference;
- to consult with the United Kingdom and Irish Governments as appropriate, should its work touch on the expression of sovereignty, national identity and political allegiance in a divided society; and
- to encourage shared learning, active listening and understanding in a meaningful way across traditional boundaries.

The representative outlined the Commissions proposed timescale:

- phase 1 November 2016 – January 2017 - to listen, learn and ask questions (request submissions, public meetings, look at reports and information and discuss key issues);
- March 2017 – preliminary report to the First and Deputy First Minister;
- phase 2 April 2017 – September 2017– to consult on specific issues arising from the preliminary review; and
- final report(s) scheduled for December 2017.

The representatives concluded the presentation by detailing some of the questions the Commission wished to ask people/organisations. They outlined that they were keen to consult with all sections of the community and also that individual submissions were welcomed.

The representatives then addressed a number of questions following which they left the meeting.

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager confirmed that the Council would forward information to the Commission to assist with its work, however, she stressed that it would not be a formal submission but would be the outcomes/information gathered from previous relevant Council evaluations and workshops and events.

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Update on the Department of Justice TBUC Interface Funding Bid

The Partnership were advised that the final funding bid had been submitted to the Department of Justice (DoJ) through ring-fenced Fresh Start monies for 2016/17 to deliver good relations work at interfaces that could support delivery on the T:BUC headline action on, 'the removal of all barriers by 2023'.

The Good Relations Manager highlighted the following items that had been included within the funding bid:

- £2,500 facilitated co-design workshop with the SCP;
- £2,500 facilitated workshop with community stakeholders;
- £2,500 maintenance for the wildflower meadow at Townsend Street;
- £2,500 technical assistance for the Alexandra Park engagement process; and
- £18,000 technical assistance for the procurement of an independent Economic
- Appraisal for the former Finlay's site which will go forward (with Council as a strategic partner) for funding under the PIV call for capital projects.

The Members were reminded that, as part of the work around interfaces, an internal officer working group had been established to ensure cross departmental working and to explore potential priority sites where programmes could take place and these would then be taken to the Council for its consideration. She advised that officers had recently attended meetings of both the North and West Area Working Groups and had ascertained the Working Group's views regarding potential sites that could be included in any future bid to the DoJ and it had been agreed that further update reports would be brought back to the Working Groups in due course.

The Good Relations Manager advised that, in order to enable the Partnership to contribute to the conversation, a facilitated workshop would take place with Partnership members in the New Year.

The Members were also advised that they had been invited to attend a presentation by the University of Ulster on their recently completed research (commissioned by the DoJ) on 'Life at the Interface', which was being held at the City Hall on 19th January 2017 from 12.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.

The Partnership noted the submission of the 2016/17 T:BUC funding bid by the DoJ and agreed that a facilitated workshop on interface working would take place with the Partnership before the end of March 2017.

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Update on the Good Relations Action Plan

The Good Relations Manager reminded Members that each year it was a requirement of the Good Relations Unit to submit the District Council Good Relations Programme Action Plan (DCGRP) 2016/2017 to the Executive Office in order to draw down funding for the Good Relations work of the Council.

She reported that officers had identified a project underspend in relation to the 2016/17 budget, as a result of a lower than anticipated uptake for the mural replacement programme and underspends by organisations that receive funding through the Good Relations Small Grants Programme.

The Good Relations Manager advised the Members that the underspend was in the region of £30,000 and officers had developed the following proposals for projects that met the aims of the DCGRP and could be delivered by March 2017:

- development of a bonfire beacon design that could be fabricated at lower cost, with longer durability than the current design - £2,500;
- fabrication of up to two beacons and repair of the existing beacons - £20,000;
- support for the development of literature to support a 'Peace Trail' in the area of North Belfast around the Girdwood shared space site - £5,000; and
- development of an online/training resource to capture Good Relations best practice - £2,500.

The officer asked the Partnership to note that there was no mechanism to allocate the underspend through grant aid as the process operated within defined opening and closing dates and in addition there was a need to spend the resources by March 2017, which would not be practicable through grant awards in January 2017.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the suggested additional projects be approved for funding under the District Council Good Relations Programme 2016/17.

Update on Peace IV

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Stage 2 application had been submitted. She reported that SEUPB had advised that, due to the level of funding applied for, an additional level of assessment and appraisal would be required which would take slightly longer than originally anticipated. It was anticipated that the assessment and approval process would now be completed in the New Year rather than December, as originally planned. She reported that the original

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Plan timetable envisaged the work commencing in the 2017/18 financial year and it was anticipated that the revised timescale would not unduly impact upon the delivery of the programmes under the Plan.

Noted.

Chairperson