

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY, 8th MAY, 2017**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

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

External Members: Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland; and  
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director,  
City and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Johnston, Ms. O. Barron, Mr. S. Brennan, Ms. A. Chada, Ms. G. Duggan, Mr. P. Mackel, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Mr. P. Scott.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 10th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 21st April, subject to the rejection of the decision under the heading "Review of St. Patrick's Day Small Grants Programme" to adopt option 3 within the report, with the Committee agreeing instead to adopt option 1, that is, to do nothing and continue with the grants scheme in its current format.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **St. Patrick's Day Small Grants Programme**

The Partnership agreed that it would be beneficial to commence the process of reviewing the St. Patrick's Day Small Grants Programme for 2019 at the earliest opportunity and noted that an initial report would be submitted to its next meeting.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

##### **Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group**

In pursuance of its decision of 10th April, the Partnership held its meeting in the premises of the Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group in order to obtain an overview of the work being undertaken by that Group.

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The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. R. Crawford and Dr. S. Boldt, the Chairperson and the Manager of the Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group, respectively.

Mrs. Crawford explained that the Lenadoon and Suffolk areas had been characterised by high rates of unemployment, low incomes, low levels of educational attainment and poor health, housing, services and skills and had, in the past, experienced some of the worst interface violence in the City. In order to address those issues, the Suffolk and the Lenadoon Community Forums had, in 1996, established the Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group, which was committed to building a shared and better future and creating an environment based upon understanding, tolerance and a celebration of all cultures, heritage and identities. The Group had, in 2002, moved into its current premises on the Stewartstown Road.

She outlined the work which the Group undertook around issues such as health and wellbeing, educational attainment, social and economic skills and welfare reform and on the extent of the relationships which it had developed with other agencies and organisations and highlighted the fact that it was widely regarded as being a model of best practice in terms of its regeneration and peace building work.

Dr. Boldt provided an overview of the various projects in which the Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group was involved. He pointed out that it was awaiting notification of the outcome of an application for funding from the Executive Office and that, should that be unsuccessful, it would be unlikely to retain its core staff beyond 31st May.

Having been assured by the Chairperson of the Council's ongoing support, Mrs. Crawford and Dr. Boldt were thanked and they retired from the meeting.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

**Urban Villages**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. L. Farrell, Programme Director, and Mr. S. McGowan, Strategic Programmes Manager, who were in attendance in order to provide information on the Executive Office's Urban Villages initiative.

Mrs. Farrell informed the Partnership that the Urban Villages initiative was a headline action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy and that it had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension. She explained that the three primary aims of the initiative were to improve the physical environment, foster positive community identities and build community capacity and outlined the objectives and outcomes associated with each of those. Five 'core' areas had been selected by the Executive Office to participate in the initiative, four of which were located in Belfast. In September 2016, a Strategic Framework had been launched for each area, which had proposed high level actions arising from a comprehensive process of information gathering, analysis and engagement and which would be delivered through community-led projects, capital projects and cross-cutting initiatives.

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Mr. McGowan reported that, in 2016/2017, eighty community-led pilot projects had been supported across the City and approximately £1.2 million had been allocated to improving the physical environment. He pointed out that the Council was working in partnership with Urban Villages to design or enhance a number of parks/playing fields across the City and highlighted a number of notable cross-cutting initiatives, including the Street Society 2017 shared learning architecture project being facilitated by Queen's University. He highlighted also the work being undertaken around, for example, education, enterprise, mental health and vacancy and dereliction and concluded by stressing that the support of the Shared City Partnership was essential in order to maximise the overall impact of the initiative.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs. Farrell and Mr. McGowan for their contribution, following which the Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

**Good Relations Best Practice Film**

The Partnership agreed to defer until its next meeting the screening of a short film highlighting examples of best practice in relation to projects which had either been supported or delivered by the Good Relations Unit.

**Update on Interfaces Programme**

The Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that, on 21st February, a workshop had been held which had focused upon the theme of 'Interfaces: Barrier Transformation'. The workshop had been facilitated by the Interaction Institute for Social Change, with the primary purpose of providing the Partnership with an opportunity to inform the design by the Council of an Interfaces Programme for the City.

She highlighted the main findings of a report which had been formulated subsequently by the Institute, which had highlighted primarily the need to develop agreed outcomes which could be used by all stakeholders, to target priority sites as a focus for activity and resources and for communities to highlight successful projects in which they had been involved. In order to build upon the work which had been undertaken to date, it was now proposed that officers develop a programme of work around interfaces, for consideration by the Partnership.

She reminded the Partnership further that the Council had submitted to the Department of Justice, under the T:BUC initiative, a bid for funding of approximately £140,000 to undertake interface-related work in 2017/2018. However, that Department had, as yet, been unable to provide information on the outcome of the Council's bid and she confirmed that the Partnership would be advised once that had been received.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that officers undertake work around the development of an interfaces programme for the City.

**Update on Council Support for Refugees in Belfast**

The Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that, from late 2015, a number of families from Syria had, on a phased basis, been resettled in Northern Ireland under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. To date, eight groups, totalling 511 people, had been settled under the initiative and had been assisted by a consortium involving Bryson Intercultural, the British Red Cross, Barnardos and Extern, which had been appointed by the Department for Communities.

She reported that, as part of the initiative to resettle the Syrian families and assist other refugees, the Good Relations Unit was supporting a number of projects across the City. For example, it had commissioned the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre to develop and deliver an orientation programme for refugees, asylum seekers and others arriving in Belfast for the first time. The programme, which was due to commence in June, would provide practical, cultural and factual details about life in the City and would cover also their rights and entitlements, access to local services and the development of local links.

She highlighted also a cross-community project between the Falls and the Shankill Women's Centres, which was being funded through the Council's small grants scheme, which provided minority ethnic women, including refugees, with mentoring and befriending support. In addition, the Blackie River Community Group and the Whiterock Children's Centre had obtained funding, through the Good Relations grants scheme, to support the local inclusion of new communities and to develop relations with local communities. She confirmed that the Good Relations Unit, through the DiverseCity programme, continued to provide opportunities on a monthly basis for people across the City to participate in diversity initiatives and to facilitate refugee and asylum awareness training, as well as organising visits to places of cultural and historical interest. Finally the Council's Economic Development Unit was supporting twelve Syrian refugees through an entrepreneurship/business start-up programme.

She pointed out that all of the aforementioned activities were being delivered through existing budgets, however, the development of that work would be dependent upon the Council receiving from the Executive Office a Letter of Offer for the 2017/2018 District Council Good Relations Programme.

After discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed that:

- i. one of the lead partners involved in the consortium which had been established to support the resettlement of people arriving in Belfast under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme, be invited to attend a future meeting; and
- ii. an update be provided at that meeting on the level of support being provided by schools to children who had been resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme.

**Update on Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme**

The Partnership considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Partnership on the delivery of the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme to include an update on the groups which have applied to the 2017 Programme.**

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Partnership is requested to note the contents of the report, including the list of groups which have made an application to be part of the 2017 Programme.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

**Applications to the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme closed on Friday 28 April. 27 organisations have submitted an application, five new groups applied. A list of the applications received by this date has been circulated to the Partnership. At the time of writing, officers are assessing these applications and will provide an update to the Shared City Partnership on 8<sup>th</sup> May meeting. At the April meeting, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services was granted delegated authority to approve grant awards under the programme. A final list of successful awards will be presented at the June meeting.**

**3.2 A contract for the repair, fill and installation of ten bonfire beacons is currently being procured. This contract will be awarded on a 3 year basis, subject to an ongoing requirement for the service, it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in mid-May. There are limited resources to fabricate and allocate additional beacons this year, any requests will be met through existing resources.**

**3.3 At the closing date, 12 groups had indicated that they wish to use a bonfire beacon this year. Officers will engage with groups who have requested use of a beacon and will assess the suitability of sites that have been requested. Following this exercise, officers will use criteria such as use of a beacon to replace a traditional bonfire and location of existing beacons to agree the distribution of the ten available bonfire beacons.**

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- 3.4** The Partnership will recall that the facilitation of four cultural networks across the city was agreed as an element of this year's programme. The aim of the networks is to develop the capacity of groups particularly in relation to the positive expression of cultural heritage within Unionist and Loyalist communities. Meetings were held at the beginning of April in east, west and south Belfast. Officers will facilitate meetings in June in east and south Belfast and in August for groups in the west of the city. Officers will engage with groups that have received funding through the programme to encourage participation on the cultural networks, particularly in north Belfast, where no groups attended the first meeting.
- 3.5** When agreeing the 2017 model, officers were asked to make provision for a complimentary process for hard to reach groups that are not currently in a position to sign up to the aims of the programme. This process is open to new groups who want to be part of a structured programme but who are at the early stages of the journey towards meeting the criteria within the programme on better bonfire management. The process would be open to new groups which:
- wish to engage with the Council on conversations about better bonfire management and the process that is required
  - wish to challenge their own community on what is positive cultural expression
  - wish for the Council to support them to undertake this engagement
  - Commit to adhering to the guidelines in the programme in year 1
- 3.6** For those new groups who are willing to engage, the Council will provide a maximum of up to £500 towards a community event in year 1, such as a small festival or street party. An additional amount up to £250 will also be used to undertake an educational event around positive cultural expression within the local community and include bonfire builders. Members have recognised the challenge that meeting the guidelines of the Programme represents for groups who have not previously participated and they will be given additional support to meet the outcomes of the programme.
- 3.7** For constituted groups funds will be issued via a Letter of Offer in line with the procedure for existing programme participants. For those groups who are not constituted, officers will seek to identify other groups who can apply on their behalf. If these options are not possible, Council will

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**make direct payments to suppliers. This would only be for costs up to £750 and engagement with groups would seek to develop their capacity and develop them as constituted groups.**

**3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

**An initial provision of 156k has been made for the programme. Officers are working with partners to confirm funding contributions for 2017/2018.**

**3.9 Good Relations Implications**

**The Bonfire Programme aims to promote the positive celebration of culture which will have a positive impact on good relations. An equality screening exercise is being undertaken on the proposed programme.”**

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation and agreed that it should engage in discussions with the Council’s Corporate Communications Section, with a view to formulating a communications plan around the positive outcomes of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and a process for communicating decisions taken by the Partnership generally.

**Summer Intervention Funding 2017/2018**

The Partnership was reminded that the Council had, for the past seven years, administered the Summer Intervention Fund on behalf of the Executive Office. The purpose of the scheme was to support diversionary and intervention activities for young people during times of heightened tension, particularly at interface areas.

The Senior Good Relations Officer reported that the call for applications for funding under the 2017/2018 fund had closed in January and that forty-seven applications had been received, requesting in total £187,000. Of those, forty-four applications had been deemed to be eligible and had been assessed by Good Relations Officers, using pre-agreed criteria, following which twenty-nine organisations had been recommended for funding totalling £75,330. Officers had met subsequently with representatives of the Education Authority, the Executive Office and other Council Departments to review a sample of applications, in order to ensure that a consistent approach was being adopted and that there was no duplication of applications for intervention funding. A further sample of submissions had then been assessed by an independent panel comprised of three officers from outside the Good Relations Unit, which had confirmed that they had been evaluated and scored in line with the criteria.

She reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 11th April, 2016, it had agreed that a portion of the Summer Intervention Fund should be used to carry out an evaluation of the scheme, which would help to inform its future development and delivery.

That decision had been taken in response to a reduction in the number of applications and in the level of funding being allocated to successful applicants and the requirement

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to measure the impact of the introduction of the Executive Office's Summer Camps Programme, which provided similar diversionary activities over the summer months.

She reported that the evaluation had included an analysis of quantitative information, a consultation exercise involving grant recipients and other funding providers and a co-design exercise with stakeholders to identify recommendations around the future delivery of the programme. She outlined the main findings contained within a report which had been formulated at the conclusion of the evaluation, a copy of which was available on Mod.gov, and pointed out that a number of options had been identified as recommended delivery mechanisms for future funding. Officers would undertake an analysis of the preferred options and would seek the Partnership's approval on an agreed approach in advance of applications being invited in November for the 2018/2019 programme.

After discussion, the Partnership noted the list of twenty-nine organisations, as set out below, which had been approved for funding totalling £75,330, under the delegated authority of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, and noted also the outcome of the evaluation of the Summer Intervention Programme:

<b>Planned Intervention Funding Programme 2017 - 2018</b>				
	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
1	Blackie River Community Groups	<i>Summer Intervention</i>	To provide a fun, safe and positive alternative to the 11th July interface at Broadway and 8th August Bonfire within Beechmount. The project will target 25 young people participate in residential on both nights in the aim in reducing tension.	£4,755.00
2	Colin Glen Trust	<i>Summer Youth Summit</i>	Young people from the Dunmurry and Lenadoon Interfaces will be invited to partake in the summer youth summit. The camp will be an opportunity for youth work staff to engage with key young people identified by Police, community and other statutory agencies that would be at greatest risk.	£3,800.00
3	Falls Residents Association	<i>Falls intervention 2017</i>	The project will provide a range of diversionary activities for Young people to attend during times of heightened tensions in the local community. The participants will be young men from the Divis/Falls Area who would be at risk of getting involved in anti-community activities including bonfires, car crime and anti-social behaviour.	£4,225.00
4	South Belfast Alternatives	<i>Youth Safety Partnership Intervention Project</i>	A series of inclusion, intervention and diversionary workshops led by the Youth Safety Partnership (YSP). Diversionary workshops for older youths will include consequences of rioting and interface violence, One Punch Campaign and extreme Mourne camping experience.	£1,064.00
5	Tacking Awareness Of Mental Health Issues	<i>Resilient Active Youth: Doing Good @ Girdwood</i>	Proposal to engage 12- 15 young people involved in Resilient Active Youth to plan and deliver a summer intervention programme focused on using sport to raise awareness of mental health and issues affecting young people's wellbeing based at Girdwood site.	£3,145.00



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6	Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership	<i>Interface Intervention Project</i>	Proposal that seeks to work with young people who have previously been involved in interface trouble during key times of heightened tension around the Whiterock parade and at other key times.	£4,380.00
7	The HUBB Community Resource Centre	<i>The HUBB Intervention summer 2017</i>	Proposal to bring together young people at risk of negative behaviour during a time of tension to engage them in positives activities.	£3,090.00
8	Patrick Downey	<i>30 Years in Green: Boots Instead of Bonfires</i>	Building on the success of Boots Instead of Bonfires we will deliver a Summer Intervention programme aimed at deterring young people away from the New Lodge Bonfire; this time linking in with Shankill Jrs to add a good relations element.	£2,320.00
9	ST JAMES'S COMMUNITY FORUM	<i>Summer Peace</i>	Proposal to take 50 young people from the interface area at a time of heightened tensions. The proposal is a purely diversionary exercise, which will take young people, at risk of being caught up in conflict over the 11th July and the 8th August, away from the Broadway interface area to engage in recreational activities.	£3,420.00
10	Roden Street Community Development Group	<i>Future Youth</i>	Project to provide a space, arena and platform for young people to meet, engage, discuss and plan over the Summer period, including, workshop weekend at Grosvenor Community Centre with young people from both sides of Roden Street Interface, excursions to sites focused on positive thoughts and feelings, diversionary nights 11th July and 8th August.	£2,050.00
11	Southcity Resource And Development Centre	<i>Broadway-Westlink-Roden Street Bridge Builders</i>	Southcity wish to promote an intervention and diversionary programme including outreach work to involve young people not engaged in regular youth provision and who could be at risk of becoming involved in conflict.	£3,820.00
12	North Belfast Play Forum	<i>Weekend intervention activities</i>	The summer intervention programme over the summer weekends will provide, intervention activities at the weekends and 11th & 12th July evenings including a fun day on the 12th July to divert young people from interfaces and flashpoints.	£800.00
13	New Lodge Arts	<i>Don't Duck and Run 2017</i>	The project will provide a range of targeted intervention activities for young people aged 9 to 18 years from the Greater New Lodge from the 10th - 17th July and 7th – 10th August. It will provide an alternative to participation in sectarian violence at interfaces.	£4,260.00
14	Clarendon Development Association	<i>Youth Diversionary Programme</i>	Proposal aims to run a week long intervention programme from the 10th July to 15th July 2017. This programme will work 16 young people aged 13-18 years old and provide them with coach education, educational workshops and an away day to Dublin to mark completion of the project.	£1,560.00

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15	Carrick Hill Resident's Association	<i>Carrick Hill Summer Intervention Programme 2017</i>	Through outreach, detached, diversionary and structured learning activities, Alternative Summer will engage marginalised and 'at-risk' local youth and develop with them a programme addressing issues of single identity, diversity and personal development throughout the contentious and high-tension summer months.	£4,294.00
16	Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	<i>Towards a Peaceful North Belfast</i>	CCRF is planning an all summer activities, facilitation and diversionary programme but seek funding to cover activities at the July and August bonfire dates. Proposal aims to engage young people 'at risk' of interface violence and who are 'outside' any current youth provision.	£4,830.00
17	WheelWorks	<i>All About Us - ArtCart Summer Intervention Project</i>	56 young people aged 8-17 from Ligoniel and Glencairn youth groups (cross community group) will take part in a four day arts programme which will explore cultural expression, heritage and identity on board the ArtCart activity vehicle.	£2,116.00
18	WhiterockWestrock Residents Association	<i>Whiterock intervention summer project</i>	A proposal provide workshops and residential for young people around July/August to deter them from involvement in any incidents and to build their self-confidence and encourage them to become involved in other positive aspects of the community and outreach detached work.	£2,600.00
19	Market Development Association	<i>MDA summer intervention project 2017</i>	The Market Summer Intervention Project is a yearly project aimed at reducing interfacing the impact of tensions in the Inner South Belfast area. The project aims to interact with young people from the area to divert them from potential conflict by providing positive alternative activities.	£4,323.00
20	22nd Old Boys FC	<i>22nd Youth football and mental well-being</i>	Proposal to run a series of training sessions at night at critical dates for young people aged 15-19 to help their physical and mental wellbeing.	£2,473.00
21	Cregagh Wanderers Youth Football Club	<i>Onto The Pitch</i>	Cregagh Wanderers FC will host a summer intervention project in a week-long event in August for young people aged 6-16 when tensions are rife in the local area. The aim of the project is to intervene on young people's summer holidays to provide them with capacity building activities.	£1,240.00
22	Charter For Northern Ireland	<i>Diamond Diversionary project</i>	Our project is focused on providing a diversionary activity to young people living in the Inner East Belfast/Short Strand Interface area and providing educational activities that will reduce tension, build awareness, promote and encourage trust and mutual understanding and develop the capacity of young people.	£700.00
23	Sirocco Works FC	<i>Sirocco Works Soccer Coaching Courses</i>	To provide children aged 6 - 15 within East Belfast the opportunity to engage in diversionary activities designed to develop and improve their football skills, improve fitness and make friends during the summer holiday period.	£1,901.00

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24	Greater Village Regeneration Trust	<i>Safer South -Summer Programme</i>	Summer intervention and diversionary programme for the Greater Village area to reduce tension on the interface and provide alternative activities for young people during times of tension in July & August.	£1,100.00
25	Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association	<i>Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association Summer Intervention</i>	During the marching season there are heightened tensions within the TWRA area we would like to plan day excursions to alleviate these on the key dates 10th-13th July and 7-10th August.	£1,909.00
26	Village Festival Committee	<i>Village Getaway Days</i>	Taking children and youths away from the area on day trips with the aim to help ease tension at the Broadway Roundabout interface on critical dates 8th and 9th of August.	£1,790.00
27	DREAMSCHEME NORTHERN IRELAND	<i>Braniel Summer Intervention</i>	This project will provide positive diversionary activities for 30 teenagers from Braniel during the period of increased tension in East Belfast during the parade season, and during the school holidays when young people are at risk of being involved in anti-social behaviour in Braniel and inner East Belfast.	£880.00
28	DREAMSCHEME NORTHERN IRELAND	<i>Milltown &amp; Belvoir Summer Intervention</i>	This project will provide positive diversionary activities for 25 teenagers from Belvoir during the period of increased tension in South Belfast during the parade season, and during the school holidays when young people are at risk of being involved in anti-social behaviour in Belvoir/Milltown and inner Belfast.	£985.00
29	Gleann ABC	<i>Summer Boxing Initiative</i>	A day time partnership intervention programme with Ormeau Boxing Club for children aged 10-16 years old to engage in sporting opportunities through boxing whilst also incorporating educational workshops and activities. The programme will take place over the July and August months between 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm.	£1,500.00

Chairperson