

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY, 7th AUGUST, 2017**

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

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

External Members: Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Mrs. A. Chada, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;  
Mrs. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management; and  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;  
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Sandford and Mrs. O. Barron, Mr. P. Mackel, Mrs. M. Marken and Mr. M. O'Donnell.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13th June were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2017**

The Partnership considered the following report:

##### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the delivery of the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme to include a list of all groups who were approved for funding through the 2017 Programme. A full list of participants is available on modern.gov. The first section of the monitoring and evaluation report is available on modern.gov.**

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (SP&R) that they note the contents of this report including the list of groups who received funding through the 2017 Programme and the findings from the monitoring and evaluation report. Members are requested to nominate an independent member of the Partnership to sit on the Review Panel this year and to recommend this nomination to SP&R.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

A total of 31 groups took part in the programme this year, 35 groups had initially applied, 2 groups withdrew their application to the programme and in a further two cases the offer of funding was withdrawn. This represented a reduction of one in the number of groups linked to July events who participated last year. In 2015, the figure was 44.

3.2 This year, 9 bonfire beacons were provided for groups, an additional request was received from one other site but the location was not suitable for a beacon. 10 bonfire beacons were provided in 2016. A breakdown of participating groups is presented below:

- Sites linked to a traditional bonfire – 16 (52%)
- Sites using bonfire beacons – 9 (29%)
- Sites having a community event rather than a traditional bonfire – 6 (19%)

3.3 The 2017 programme adopted an incentivised approach to support groups to meet the aims of the framework in relation to positive cultural expression, particularly in relation to the collection of materials, burning of tyres and burning of any items such as flags, emblems, election posters and items of clothing. J Byrne was appointed - through an open quotation exercise – to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the programme which included visits to all participating sites on 10 and 11 July.

3.4 Members may be aware that at the full council meeting on 3 July it was agreed that *'an investigation and full review, led by the Chief Executive, with independent input, would be undertaken into the issue of the collection and storage of bonfire material and the future approach to bonfires across the city'*.

In light of this, the full contents of the monitoring and evaluation report cannot be tabled at the Shared City

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Partnership meeting on 7 August as they may prejudice the outcome of the ongoing investigation. It is expected that the investigation will be concluded by 22 September and the full detail of the evaluation report can be issued at that stage. J Byrne will attend the Partnership meeting to provide an overview of his report at that point.

**3.5** However, in order to allow for the ongoing delivery of the programme the first section of the report which relates directly to participating sites can be released and it available on modern.gov.

- the majority of sites on the programme were well maintained and met the aims of the framework
- the majority of sites on the programme were not fully constructed by 10 July
- prior to 8.30pm on 11 July no sites on the programme had any paramilitary displays
- prior to 8.30pm on 11 July three sites, Cluan Place, Dunmurry and Gray's Lane had tyres on the bonfire
- prior to 8.30pm on 11 July four sites, Cluan Place, Cregagh, Dunmurry and Suffolk had items such as flags, emblems and election posters on the bonfire.

Members will note that the report observations do not extend beyond 8.30pm on 11 July, this is due to health and safety and child protection considerations.

**3.6** Groups linked to all sites for whom no issues have been identified will be eligible to apply for a further £500 to support the delivery of activity from September 2017 and March 2018 that develops community engagement and awareness on issues of positive cultural expression. Officers will update on this element in due course.

**3.7** Groups representing the four sites where issues were identified through the monitoring and evaluation report will be invited to attend a meeting with the review panel on 5 September. As previously agreed the chair, vice chair and an independent member of the Shared City Partnership will sit on this panel. In previous years the independent member from the Partnership who was nominated to sit on the panel represented NIHE. Members are requested to nominate an independent member of the Partnership to sit on the panel this year.

This year it was agreed that an independent assessor would be appointed to attend the panel meeting. Their role will be to:

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- **Provide a challenge function and independent advice to the review panel in relation to the issues that groups face in trying to meet the aims of the programme**
- **Make observations on the decision making process to ensure that it is robust and takes a consistent, fair approach to all sites**

**3.8 At the May meeting of the Shared City Partnership members requested that officers should develop an approach to capture positive stories about the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression programme. A meeting with officers and elected members took place on 15 June where a number of approaches to highlight positive work were suggested. However, the external environment in relation to media coverage was such that it was agreed that it would not be possible to deliver the work at that time. The Council did receive media calls in relation to the use of bonfire beacons and officers responded to these.**

**3.9 Members may recall that the programme included support for four cultural networks in north, south, east and west Belfast as an attempt to support groups involved in bonfires and cultural expression to develop greater capacity and engagement. The programme is open to those groups involved in the bonfire programme, but not limited to them.**

**The turn-out for the Network meetings has been lower than expected and possible reasons that have been identified are; groups now have their own engagement with other agencies and do not need council to facilitate this; many groups meet each other through other area community networks; some groups do not want to engage with the programme or the cultural networks due to issues around penalties and negative perceptions about the council approach**

**3.10 However, participants did see a value in being part of a process of engagement with the Council. Whilst recognizing there will be a need to consider all bonfire management arrangements in light of the investigation in due course, officers recommend at this time that the approach should be adapted to develop a city-wide cultural development programme for all bonfire and other cultural organisations that will involve 4 events in City Hall on the broad themes listed below:**

- **October 2017: Best Practice Recognition Event; to acknowledge and recognize the work that volunteers play in delivering events within communities on 11 July**

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- **November 2017: Funding masterclass; to support communities in applying for funding for their summer events**
- **January 2018: Training event**
- **March 2018: Engagement event with the bonfire interagency group on good practice in bonfire management and invite the media**

**Financial & Resource Implications**

**All activity that is referenced in this report will be delivered through existing budgets.**

**Good Relations Implications**

**The Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme aims to promote the positive celebration of culture which will have a positive impact on good relations.”**

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised the Members that a more detailed report on the Bonfire Programme would be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership following the outcome of the Investigation. (N.B. The investigation will look at all sites in particular those most problematic ones, and the action to be taken going forward, and also the need to set up a series of meetings with other partners on how to approach these issues in future years.)

In response to a Member’s question, the Senior Good Relations Officer confirmed that, to date, this year no external photographs or information in relation to alleged breaches of the programme guidance in relation to sites linked to the programme had been received by officers.

Several Members highlighted that whilst there had been much negative publicity around some of the bonfires there had been no publicity around any of the positive stories.

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised that a meeting had taken place on 15<sup>th</sup> June between officers and Elected Members where a number of approaches to highlight ‘positive good news stories’ had been suggested, however, unfortunately the external environment in relation to media coverage had resulted in it not being possible to deliver this work at this time. The officer added that approaches to promote positive stories would be considered on an ongoing basis, this will include four city wide network events to capture best practice and build capacity

Following a query from a Member, it was agreed that the Best Practice Recognition event that was scheduled to be held in October would be held in September, it was further agreed:

- that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive representative on the Shared City Partnership would be asked if they would be willing to sit on the 2017 appeals panel; and

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- agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be asked to note the list of groups who had received funding through the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme, as detailed below:

**2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme – List of participants**

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Location/Detail</b>	<b>Activity and Funding Award</b>
1.	Sunningdale Community Centre	Ballysillan Road (Beacon)	£1250 – Community Festival
2.	The HUBB	Shore Road	£1250 – Community Festival
3.	Twadell Woodvale Residents Association	Woodvale Park	£1250 – Community Festival
4.	Wheatfield Action Group	Ballysillan Road (Beacon)	£1250 – Community Festival
5.	Whitecity Community Development Association	Whitecity Play Park (Beacon)	£1250 – Community Festival
6.	Whitecity on behalf of Graymount Residents	Grays Lane / Shore Road	£500 – Community Festival
7.	Dunmurry Community Association	Dunmurry Car Park	£1250 – Community Festival
8.	Milltown Community Forum	Milltown Road / Milltown Hill	£1250 – Community

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			Festival
9.	South Belfast Malecare	Roden / Milner Street	£1250 – Community Festival
10.	Suffolk Community Forum	Kells Avenue or Carnanmore Park	£1250 – Community Festival
11.	Village Festival Committee	Kitchener Street	£1250 – Community Festival
12.	Bapaume / Picardy Avenue residents	Bapaume / Picardy Avenue (Beacon)	£1250 – Community Festival
13.	Cluan Place / Stormont Street	Cluan Place	£1250 – Community Festival
14.	Connswater Community & Leisure Services limited	Ballymacarrett Walkway	£1250 – Community Festival
15.	Connswater Women's Group	Frome Street (Beacon)	£1250 – Community Festival
16.	Cosy Historical & Cultural Society	Woodstock Road	£1250 – Community Festival
17.	Diamond Project - Charter N.I.	Lord Street (Beacon)	£1250 – Community Festival

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18.	East Belfast Alternatives	Ravenhill / London Street	£1250 – Community Festival
19.	Eastside Women's Group – Charter N.I.	Tamar Street	£1250 – Community Festival
20.	Lower Beersbridge / Willowfield Residents Association	Tamery Pass	£1250 – Community Festival
21.	Tullycarnett Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT)	Ardcarn Green	£1250 – Community Festival
22.	Tullycarnett Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT)	Kinross Avenue	£1250 - Community Festival
23.	Tullycarnett Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT)	Tullycarnet Library - Granton Heights (Beacon)	£1250 - Community Festival
24.	Templemore Action Group - Charter N.I.	Templemore Avenue	£1250 – Community Festival
25.	Cregagh Community Association	Cregagh Green	£1250 – Community Festival
26.	Browns Square Development Association	Melbourne Street (Beacon)	£1250 – Community Festival
27.	Highfield Residents Association	Highgate Terrace (Beacon)	£1250 – Community



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			Festival
28.	West Belfast Athletic & Cultural Society	Northumberland Street	£1250 – Community Festival
29.	Lower Oldpark Community Association	Beechnut Street	£1250 – Community Festival
30.	Belfast City Mission	Island Street	£1250 – Community Festival
31.	Clarawood Community Association	Clarawood shops	£1250 – Community Festival

**TEO Funding Update**

The Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that District Councils had been identified within the Together: Building a United Community Strategy as a key delivery agent. She outlined that this delivery was through the District Council's Good Relations Strategic Programme (DCGRP) which was 75% funded by The Executive Office (TEO).

She reported that Action Plans were based on an audit of good relations issues and needs within the Council area. The Good Relations Unit had completed an audit of its good relations needs in January 2017. She reminded the Members that the Action Plans had to be aligned with the Government Strategy Together; Building a United Community, under the following key priority areas:

- Children and Young people;
- Our Shared Community;
- Our Safe Community; and
- Our Cultural Expression;

She advised that a Letter of Offer for the Belfast City Council's Good Relations Programme had been received from the TEO. This detailed that a £510,000 contribution had been allocated from the TEO, this would result in a contribution of £171,000 from Belfast City Council, given that it contributed 25% to support delivery of the plan. This allocation is already included within departmental budgets.

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She explained that the award was in line with the draft action plan for the Programme which had been submitted to TEO in February 2017. The total value of the plan was £680,000 and all identified projects would therefore be delivered. The officer asked the Partnership to approve an additional £10,000 to support the good relations small grants programme. She advised that details in relation to Tranche 2 of the projects approved for funding through the Good Relations small grants programme would be brought to a later meeting of the Partnership when they had been assessed.

The Partnership were also asked to note that the Council had, on 14th July, received a Letter of Offer for the Planned Interventions Funding Programme 2017/18 (Summer Intervention Funding). This fund provides support for diversionary activities at times of heightened tensions and the Council administer it on behalf of TEO. The Members were reminded that these awards had been made to community and voluntary organisations in March 2017 and the Letter of Offer had provided £75,330 in support of the Programme which equated to the amount that had been allocated.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they approve the recommended reallocation of £10,000 to grant aid funding.

**Decade of Centenaries**

The Partnership was reminded that there was an ongoing stream of work in relation to the Decade of Centenaries with the anniversaries of a number of significant events currently being commemorated.

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised that Partnership that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 24th March, had agreed that the Council would collaborate with other organisations who were delivering events marking the hundredth anniversary of Messines. The officer reported that £5,000, which had been included within the Good Relations Action Plan, had been set aside to support four events which had been delivered by the 36th Ulster Division Memorial Association and the Fellowship of the Messines Association. The Partnership were asked to note that, to date, of the £5,000 allocated, £3,700 had been spent.

The officer advised that a request had been received from Clifton House seeking assistance with a series of evening events which would be held at the beginning of 2018, which she detailed as follows:

- From Home Rule to the Somme 1913 – 1916: Carson's Army and Redmond's Volunteers;
- The North Began – Northern narratives of the Easter Rising;
- Ireland, Ulster and the Battles of Messines, 1917; and
- The Decade of Centenaries – A Panel Discussion.

The officer detailed that Clifton House estimated that these four events would cost in the region of £4,000 to run and it was suggested that the remaining allocation in the current Action Plan could be used to support the events.

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At the request of a Member, it was agreed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership which would outline a wider programme of proposed activities and give consideration to an event highlighting the work of the Pacifist and Suffragette movements.

The Partnership also agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that support of up to £1,300 be allocated to Clifton House to assist with the delivery of the four events.

**Update on Interface Working**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 To update the Partnership on the response to Council’s 2017/18 bid for funding through T:BUC/Shared Future funds and future approaches in relation to this work and to provide an update on issues raised by IFI Peacewalls Programme groups in relation to the Belfast Agenda and proposed Interfaces Programme.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 That the Shared City Partnership recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and that SP&R approve the recommendation in respect of the Belfast Agenda stretch goal in relation to interfaces.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The Partnership will recall that Council had been invited to submit a request for funding, through the Department of Justice, to the T:BUC/Shared Future funds for 2017/18 to assist with interface working within Council. Council submitted a funding bid totalling £140,000 to include the following:**

- Funding for a dedicated full-time Interfaces Programme Coordinator to deliver on the Interfaces Programme as included in the Council’s Belfast Agenda;**
- Support to develop engagement that could assist in the delivery of the Shared Spaces and Services element of the PIV Belfast Peace Plan;**
- Support for the design of the transformation of the interface at Navarra Place.**

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- 3.2 Council has been advised by DoJ that The Executive Office has taken a decision not to fund any of the three Councils that had been invited to apply for funding to support interface working in those district Council areas. TEO reports that the Shared Future funds are over-subscribed and that Councils have access to alternative areas of funding to deliver on interface working - including Peace IV.**
- 3.3 The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services is meeting with senior officials at DoJ and TEO in the near future to discuss the funding decision in more detail and explore options for accessing further funds. Council does not at present have access to any other funds to develop the work that was outlined in the application in relation to Navarra Place and Springfield dam.**
- 3.4 Members will recall that in April they asked officers to develop an Interfaces programme and report back on the content of this programme. Development of this work was due to be undertaken through the Interfaces Programme Coordinator, this post was to be funded through the DoJ Shared Future funding. This work will now have to be undertaken through existing resources. A meeting of the internal Interface officer group is scheduled for 10 August, this group will consider what resource can be made available to develop the Interface Programme.**
- 3.5 On 20th June Council attended an IFI Peacewalls Programme event that was used as an opportunity to seek feedback from key stakeholders on the Interfaces Programme as outlined in the Belfast Agenda. The main issues raised included:**
- The current target in relation to interfaces in the Belfast Agenda 'Make progress towards reducing the number of interface barriers' is considered to be vague; however there was concern about setting a specific target as this may result in the target being the focus rather than the work.**
  - It is too narrow to measure progress solely in terms of removal of barriers, it should also measure 'softening' (attitudinal change; building community confidence; creating conditions), reducing and reclassification.**
  - It is important to recognise that every peace wall/interface is different and to highlight progress to date**
  - Investment has a key role to play in this process – addressing economic, health, deprivation issues to improve the lives of people living in interface areas.**
  - Increase and encourage shared facilities/space. (There is a need to agree a definition of 'shared space').**

- 3.6** The final version of the Belfast Agenda is being agreed and members are asked to recommend that the current stretch goal be changed to read: ' *Support communities to make progress towards reducing the number of interface barriers*'. This change reflects the feedback from the IFI Peacewalls event and from the Shared City Partnership Interfaces workshop in February 2017.

At the event the need for council support for each of the IFI funded Interface groups was identified as a priority. Groups are currently developing their annual action plans which they will send to Council for information.

- 3.7** Officers are meeting with IFI to explore ways in which the links between the IFI Peacewalls Programme and the support that Council provides for Interface communities can be more complementary and agree an approach where resources from both organisations which support interventions at interfaces can be aligned. Members are asked to note this recommended approach and provide any relevant feedback.
- 3.8** Members will note that the Good Relations Action Plan includes direct support for projects in interface areas through the Shared Space Programme (BCC8) and Interface Projects (BCC9). Officers will seek expressions of interest from groups working in interface areas to allocate the resources aligned to these two projects. This will include groups funded through the IFI Peacewalls programme as well as organisations operating in interface areas.
- 3.9** Members should also note that the criteria for the small grant programme is weighted to support projects that are being delivered in interface areas and that many other projects in the plan will target the involvement of groups who are based close to interfaces. This approach was endorsed through the good relations audit that was completed in January and identified the need to prioritise interventions at interface areas.

**3.10** Financial & Resource Implications

Members should note the implications of the decision by TEO not to award any Shared Future funds to Council to deliver on the proposed Interfaces Programme as referred to in the Belfast Agenda. All other activity referenced in the report can be delivered with existing resources.

**3.11** Equality or Good Relations Implications

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**Work on interfaces and barrier removal was highlighted as a priority in the 2017 Good Relations audit and is also part of the DGRP. Work in this area will promote equality and good relations by addressing issues of segregation.”**

The Partnership adopted the recommendation and noted the need for further discussion with TEO and DoJ to ensure that Council could access resources to support the transformation of interfaces.

**Update on International Day of Peace**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th June, it had agreed that officers would explore the possibility of hosting a joint event with the Health Trust and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to mark the 2017 International Day of Peace to reaffirm the commitment of the three organisations in supporting good relations across the city.

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised that it was proposed that this event would be held on the morning of 21st September at the Girdwood Centre, with the Chief Executive of the Health Trust, the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive from the NIHE all in attendance. She stated that further details and an invite to Members of the Shared City Partnership would be circulated in due course.

The officer also reported that, in order to enhance the shared space at Girdwood during community relations week and to highlight the theme for this year, officers were seeking approval for the Council to cover the costs of installing the ‘Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict’ exhibition in the foyer of the Girdwood Community Hub over community relations and cultural diversity week. She advised that the exhibition includes many views and experiences of the recent conflict in Northern Ireland through a range of loaned objects and their accompanying labels, all written in the words of those who owned them. The cost for the installation of the exhibition would be approximately £1,200 which included the transportation, installation and hire for a week.

The Partnership was also asked to note that, as part of the Good Relations Unit Programme of activity, the following events were being held:

- 21st September – Irish Cultural and Linguistic Experience (a facilitated visit to Culturlann would provide an opportunity for participants to visit a space that they may not have visited and would enable them to sample Irish Culture, the history of the language and the rich heritage in the Gaeltacht quarter); and
- 28th September – a facilitated visit to Clifton Street Orange Hall (this visit would provide participants with the opportunity to have a guided tour of the 130 year building as well as providing an insight into the history and traditions of the Orange Order and an exploration of the artefacts that add to the story of the institution).

A Member stated that, whilst he welcomed the organisation of this event and appreciated there were many other events already planned for this day, he felt that the Council should undertake wider promotion of International Day of Peace within Belfast.

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Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership which would contain options on how to mark the 2018 International Day of Peace and would include a business case, given that there was currently limited funding for such an event through the good relations action plan.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the arrangements for the proposed event to be held on 21st September to mark the 2017 International Day of Peace and also that they approve the resource allocation of approximately £1,200 to install the exhibition in the foyer of the Girdwood Community Hub during community relations and cultural diversity week.

**Peace IV Update**

The Senior Good Relations Officer provided the Partnership with an update on the Peace IV Programme. Following further communication from SEUPB officers had been advised that the Joint Steering Committee was scheduled to meet in September to consider the Belfast Local Action Plan bid and that senior officers were meeting with SEUPB officials to highlight the need for confirmation of funding as soon as possible.

Chairperson