



Subject:	Belfast City Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2017 – 2022
Date:	20 October 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	David Robinson, Good Relations Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek the approval of Members on the proposed governance, delivery and content for the Decade of Centenaries Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the Decade of Centenaries commemoration programme be delivered by the Good Relations Unit with the governance emanating from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Shared City Partnership and party group leaders.• That all other Commemoration proposals and projects be dealt with by the Historic Working Group, with Good Relations input as required, where any potential commemorative activity is of a sensitive nature.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members are further asked to agree the proposed Decade of Centenaries programme for delivery over the coming 6 years. The programme includes activity within the current Council term, with agreement in principle on activity to be delivered following Council elections in 2019. Any activity agreed for beyond 2019, would be reviewed at that stage.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Members will be aware of the programme of work in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, which has been ongoing since 2011. The Decade of Centenaries was considered by the Diversity Working Group until March of this year, when that group ceased. Following this a Historic Working Group (HWG) was created to <i>'prioritise historic events and related issues. That would mean a move away from a Good Relations focus, with Good Relations primarily being discussed by Party Leaders and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.'</i></p>
3.2	<p><i>The HWG met on 3 August and agreed the following Terms of Reference:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>to consider how the Council can maximise and promote the historic richness of legacies and assets of Belfast;</i> <i>to develop a long term plan to celebrate, promote and commemorate our historic assets and events</i> <i>to apply the agreed core set of principles established to commemorate any events;</i> <i>to advise on the detailed decade of centenaries programme once agreed via Party Leaders and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and</i> <i>to make recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee regarding the issues above.</i>
3.3	<p>Members will know that the Council delivers an annual District Council Good Relations programme which includes a work stream on Decade of Centenaries. Since the beginning of the Centenaries period, the Good Relations Unit has been the main council unit responsible for the delivery this work.</p>
3.4	<p>Members will also be aware that the Shared City Partnership (SCP), formerly the Good Relations Partnership, is a working group of council established to advise on good relations issues. This group is also the formal mechanism for consideration of PEACE IV proposals.</p>
3.5	<p>On this basis it is considered more appropriate for the Shared City Partnership, rather than the Historic Working Group to oversee the Decade of Centenaries programme since this programme has clear good relations outcomes. This would take Decade of Centenaries out of the remit of the Historic Working Group and remove this remit from the HWG's terms of</p>

reference thus avoiding duplication. However, all other commemorative activity, outside of the Decade of Centenaries programme, would sit within the remit of the HWG.

3.6 In support of this, the PEACE IV local action plan also contains a community focused piece of work in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, which again will be driven out of the Councils overall Good Relations work. There is clear benefit in keeping all of this work co-ordinated through the one governance mechanism.

3.7 As a working group of council, all Shared City Partnership recommendations require approval by SP&R. Officers also recommend that all potentially sensitive elements of the Decade of Centenaries programme would be brought first to the Party Group Leaders to consider before being brought to SCP and then to SP&R for approval.

Future Programme

3.8 In 2011, Members of the then Historic Centenaries Working Group had agreed a three phased approach to the Decade of Centenaries, divided into 3 phases. The first period, 1912-1914, was entitled "Shared History, Differing Allegiances". The second period, 1914-1918, would cover the period of World War I, including the Somme and the Easter Rising. This activity, under the banner of "Belfast; Reflections on 1916" was hugely successful. The third period, 1918-1922, would cover the end of WWI, the 1918 elections and the establishment of parliaments in Belfast and Dublin.

3.9 Major exhibitions were commissioned for the Covenant, the Somme and the Easter Rising and that there was a Civic Dinner to mark each of these three major historical events. All of this activity, and more, has been delivered thus far.

3.10 At the August 2016 meeting of the Diversity Working Group, Members requested that officers develop a programme for the remainder of the Decade, until 2022.

3.11 In line with the request of Members, a programme was developed, in consultation with the Parties and the Diversity Working Group for consideration regarding the key events to be delivered for the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries; 1917 – 1922. The proposals sit within a number of themes and contain a series of events to be delivered within each theme (see appendices 1 and 2)

3.12 Central to the events programme, Members also requested that in addition to continuing with the previously agreed Decade of Centenaries Principles, the following would also apply:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activity being planned would continue with the objective of having a strong Belfast focus, exploring the human stories of lost lives and be respectful. - The current Principles, agreed in 2011, will inform all activity within the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries <p>In discussions with Party Group Leaders, they requested that officers also explore the possibility of delivering a large exhibition covering the themes within appendix 1 during this final phase of the Decade of Centenaries.</p> <p>With the ceasing of the Diversity Working Group, Party Group Leaders agreed to the delivery of year one of the programme (appendix 3), with the May and June elements to be resourced through the Good Relations Action Plan. Subsequent to this, the Budget Panel agreed to the financing of the remainder of the 2017 – 2018 programme at its June meeting. Officers are undertaking work in relation to the delivery of these activities.</p> <p>While parties have been consulted and involved in developing the proposed themes and programmes for 2018 – 2022, no approval has been granted to deliver these yet.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All programme activity for the 2017/2018 financial year is fully funded. No agreement on funding beyond March 2018 has been made. Potential costings are detailed in appendix 2 and would need to be considered through the estimate setting process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The Decade of Centenaries programme is included within the Good Relations Action Plan, which was screened out following an Equality Screening exercise.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Themes for activity from 1917 – 1922</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Planned activities from 1917 – 1922</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Programme delivered this financial year</p>