

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 2017

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church; and
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;
Miss. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mrs. D. McKinney, Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Chair of Meeting

It was agreed that, in the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Attwood would take the Chair.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mrs. G. Duggan and Mr. P. Scott.

Resignation

The Partnership was advised that Mr. S. Brennan had resigned from the Shared City Partnership.

The Partnership noted the contribution that Mr. Brennan had made to the Partnership over the years and agreed that a letter of thanks be forwarded acknowledging his contribution.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th September were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6, Good Relations Small Grants 2016/17, Tranche 1, in that he was associated with the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group. Councillor Walsh declared an interest on the same agenda item, in that he undertook some employment for Coiste Na Niarchimi. Mrs M Marken also declared an interest in the item as she was associated with the 4 Corners Festival. All of the aforementioned organisations had made an application for funding through the Good Relations Small Grants Fund but none of the representatives had been directly involved in the submission of the application for funding.

Presentation on the Decade of Centenaries

The Acting Chairperson welcomed Mr. David Robinson from the Good Relations Unit to the meeting.

The officer reminded the Partnership that the Council was currently remembering a decade of key historical moments that had shaped the history of Northern Ireland and Ireland a century ago. The period from 1912 – 1922 witnessed some dramatic changes. One hundred years on, the Council had been taking time to explore some of the significant events in more detail through various different channels.

He proceeded to detail to the Members the strategic phased approach that the Council had adopted to mark the various occasions. He reported that exhibitions had been held for the key three historical events: the Covenant, the Somme and the Easter Rising and a Civic Reception had also been held to mark each occasion. Events and activities had also been held which comprised of talks, lectures, drama pieces and music. The use of the arts and formal talks had proved positive with many people joining in and engaging with the programme, some coming to the City Hall for the first time. Support had also been given to community organisations to assist with the delivery of local events.

The officer drew the Members' attention to numerous images of the various exhibitions that had been located in the City Hall and he advised that the feedback received from the public had been extremely positive.

The officer concluded the presentation by referring to the 2017-2018 programme of events. He reported that four events had been successfully delivered by the 36th Ulster Division Memorial Association and the Fellowship of Messines Programme in May and June.

He then provided details in respect of the remaining events, as follows:

- The Irish Convention of 1917-1918: The Last Hope of Averting Partition? - 26th October at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall;
- The Russian Revolutions and World War I - 27th November at 6.30 p.m. in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall;
- an analysis of the General Election of 1918 and the first meeting of the Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919 - 18th January, 2018 at 6.30 p.m. in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall; and
- the Representation of the People Act 1918, and its impact on women in Politics – 8th February, 2018 at 6.30 p.m. in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall.

The Partnership was advised that further information on the Decade of Centenaries was available via the Council's website [here](#) and a copy of the Belfast City Council Decade of Centenaries Civic Events Programme 2017-2018 was given to each Member present.

(Councillor Kyle, Chairperson, in the Chair.)

Update on Peace IV Programme

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with a progress update report in respect of the Peace IV Action Plan.

She advised the Partnership that the SEUPB Peace IV Programme Steering Committee had considered the Belfast Peace IV Action Plan on 13th September and approved an indicative funding allocation to the Council, with varying degrees of conditions, in respect of a number of projects. The officer updated the Members on the initial feedback which also included detail in respect of three projects that had been removed.

The officer then provided a comprehensive update in respect of the following key areas:

- Implementation of the approved projects;
- Governance Structure;
- Procurement/Tender Approach;
- Shared Space;
- Launch of the Programme; and
- Staffing requirements

Following a query, the Peace IV Manager confirmed that the Council would have one further opportunity to rebid for the remaining funding relating to the delivery of the three projects that had been removed from the Action Plan.

Following a further query regarding the involvement of the Members of the Partnership on the various steering and working groups, the Assistant Director advised that a half day planning session was being arranged to consider the current format and future membership of the Partnership and she stressed the importance of the Members attending this event. The Peace IV Manager reported that SJ Consulting had just recently been appointed and would be facilitating this process/session.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Good Relations Grant Aid 2017/18 – Tranche 1

The Partnership was reminded that the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund was funded jointly by The Executive Office (TEO) (75%) and the Council (25%), through the District Council Good Relations Programme. The Good Relations Manager reported that the first call for applications for funding under the 2017/2018 Fund, to undertake activities between October, 2017, and March, 2018, had closed on 7th July. The St Patrick's Day Celebration Grants Fund and a range of other Belfast City Council funds had also closed on the same date. She explained that, by that date, a total of fifty-seven applications had been received, requesting in total £377,393. Those had been assessed by Good Relations officers, using pre-agreed criteria, following which twenty-four organisations had been recommended for funding totalling £102,594. A 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 informed the Partnership that a letter of offer from TEO had been received on 11th July for £510,000, which represented the 75% funding from TEO, with the additional Belfast City Council allocation the total value of the programme was £680,000 and £230,000 of this had been allocated towards grant aid costs.

The Good Relations Manager advised that in previous grants rounds, funding had been awarded on the basis that funded organisations did not normally claim 100% of the amount awarded through grant aid. For the year 2016/17, claims had been in the region of 90% of the amount awarded. The officer explained that the total allocation of

approximately £245,000 had been based on this experience, however, any allocation that subsequently exceeded the amount would have an impact on the delivery of the wider Good Relations programme. She further advised that officers would be undertaking an exercise within the next few weeks to try and identify underspend in relation to the different elements of the 2017/18 Good Relations Action Plan. It was suggested that, should underspend in excess of £20,000 be identified, this could be redirected to support six additional projects through the Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants Programme.

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 17th February, had adopted a recommendation by the Partnership that, in line with the findings contained with a recent independent audit of the Council's Good Relations function, authority should be delegated to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to approve grants administered by the Good Relations Unit. Accordingly, the Partnership noted the list of 24 organisations, as set out below, which had been approved for funding totalling £102,594, under the delegated authority of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services. It also agreed that, should underspend in excess of £20,000 be identified through the Good Relations Action Plan, it would be redirected to support six additional projects through the Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants Programme.

Ref	Organisation	Project Description	Score	Requested	Recommended
1	Falls Community Council	The project is about building relationships between residents in the Clonard Shankill area between the Lanark Way and Northumberland St interfaces in West Belfast. The project builds on previous community history work and enables cross community neighbourhood visits and tours.	82.5%	£9,798.41	£7,180.00
2	Youth Link: NI	To offer 20 young people (18-24 years), from differing community backgrounds, training in youth work, cultural diversity, equality and human rights and to enable participants to be proactive in building positive sustainable community relations within and between communities.	78.75%	£10,000.00	£8,240.00
3	4 Corners Festival	The Festival seeks to inspire people from across Belfast to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all. Through ten days of	78.75%	£2,800.00	£2,800.00

		free events featuring discussion, music, prayer, poetry and story-telling people are encouraged into new corners of the city where they will encounter new perspectives, ideas and friends.			
4	The Fellowship Of Messines Association	To promote collaborative working and understanding across networks and communities of interest that looks to the future by deconstructing entrenched sectarian and political mythologies that assists in the creation of opportunities for the building of more positive, mature and tolerant political and cultural understandings and relationships in our society.	75%	£5,160.00	£3,335.00
5	Early Years - The Organisation For Young Children	To deliver Media Initiative for Children Respecting Difference Programme (MIFC) training encompassing parent workshops, management committee workshops, and age appropriate resources.	75%	£9,898.00	£9,898.00
6	Bardic Educational Arts And Media (BEAM)	Working with 6 targeted primary schools from throughout Belfast, the Our Island project will use arts based techniques to tackle sectarianism, racism and promote cultural diversity. We will print and distribute teacher resources and train teachers on the project to ensure a legacy is left after this funding.	75%	£9,944.00	£8,440.00

7	Forthspring Inter Community Group	Our community arts group, drawn from the local Clonard / Woodvale area in West Belfast, will use community art as a vehicle to promote community relations and personal growth and also to tell a group-generated story of the shared local history of work in the spinning mills in the 1950s and 60s.	75%	£2,600.00	£2,600.00
8	South Belfast Roundtable	These are cafe-style events where people circulate around tables hosted by individuals from different nationalities. They introduce a taste of the diversity existing in NI allowing participants to engage with those from different backgrounds. Conversations take place in a safe and semi-structured setting that is carefully managed by a facilitator.	75%	£4,300.00	£4,300.00
9	Corrymeela Community	Corrymeela works in partnership with Malone Integrated College, one of NI's most diverse schools in religious, ethic, national and political terms. This project will support young people beginning school in Year 8 to develop and maintain relationships of trust, cohesion and build good relations through understanding and embracing diversity.	75%	£6,150.00	£4,975.00
10	Lower Oldpark Community Association	This project provides an opportunity for two groups of women to come together from the Lower Oldpark and Marrowbone area. There has been little to no contact between these communities. We	75%	£3,640.00	£2,900.00

		would like to bring together the two groups for cross community consultation regarding interface barriers and working together.			
11	Chinese Welfare Association	We will break down community barriers & build new relationships by introducing 3 local indigenous community groups to the culture and cuisine of 3 ethnic groups in Belfast. This will be achieved through a coordinated, structured shopping tour of 3 ethnic shops, a shared meal & guided conversation.	75%	£3,561.00	£3,561.00
12	Hannahstown Cultural And Heritage Society	This project will consist of lectures on Partition and the Irish Civil war. As part of the project we will also visit Belfast City Hall to look at local democracy. We also will develop our "Christmas Rhymers" project and bring it over to a Protestant group in East Belfast.	75%	£2,260.00	£2,140.00
13	South Belfast Partnership Board	The project will link an unused green space in the Holylands with the diverse communities in the Wider University Area and surrounding neighbourhoods, and it will provide a safe and shared space for these communities to socialise, particularly children and young people living in Holylands from Romanian Roma background.	75%	£9,980.00	£2,800.00
14	British Red Cross	The next phase of our current Red Cross New Mothers Project aims to induct new members, thereby increasing integration levels and self-confidence, continue to refer	71.25%	£5,075.00	£3,160.00

		beneficiaries to external services whilst inviting women from the Catholic and Protestant community into our sessions to promote good relations, acceptance and tolerance.			
15	Association Of Belvoir Churches	To bring together children and adults from different religious, political and ethnic backgrounds to the Belvoir Players Theatre on Wednesday 8th November 2017 to watch films on the life of Martin Luther, to question, discuss and write about what they saw and heard, concerning the dawn of the Protestant Reformation.	68.75%	£754.00	£714.00
16	DREAMSCHEME NORTHERN IRELAND	The Roma Storytellers project will give young people from the Roma community in Belfast the motivation, skills and opportunity to actively express and share their culture and identity.	67.5%	£4,000.00	£3,600.00
17	Dunmurry Community Association	We will run a project for a group of 40 from 14 to 60years from different community backgrounds to engage with QUB Living Legacies centre for eight to ten weeks to explore the theme of "From Past Conflict to a Shared Future" with regards to the war to end all wars.	67.5%	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
18	Coiste Na Nlarchimí	This project will be one of invited persons from varied backgrounds taking part in 'Talking Libraries' - giving their analyses of how the peace process has/has not progressed over the past twenty years - in	67.5%	£10,000.00	£2,880.00

		different locations in Belfast.			
19	BEAMA Education C.I.C.	The project will use creative arts, such as film, music and photography, to engage young people in exploring Good Relations issues and increase their understanding of NI's diverse range of cultural backgrounds. This will improve attitudes and allow participants to become active in improving good relations in their community.	67.5%	£9,983.00	£7,183.00
20	Belfast Community Circus School Limited	Building on the existing project funded by BCC the programme will introduce 10 new young people to the project and see the development of circus performances to peers and the wider community in Ardoyne, Shankill, Girdwood and the groups participation in the Annual St Patricks Day Parade.	61.25%	£4,198.00	£3,723.00
21	Newhill FC	Newhill FC aim to deliver a 6 week project in partnership with Springfield Star with 40 young people from the Catholic and Protestant background. The project will consist of using football as a vehicle to engage young people whilst incorporating educational workshops and fun-based and cultural activities.	61.25%	£3,360.00	£2,110.00
22	EastSide Arts	The Home Project includes an artist development programme aimed specifically at helping emerging multicultural	61.25%	£7,020.00	£3,750.00

		artists living and working in Belfast. This is followed by workshops with local community groups exploring the shared stories of people from all cultural backgrounds living here leading to an intercultural celebration in these community centres.			
23	Greater Village Regeneration Trust	This project is the result of previous good relations programmes funding via Belfast City Council. It is a natural progression from our previous grants most of which has been asked for by the community. This project will look specifically at the Holocaust and sport.	60%	£9,955.00	£2,305.00
24	Prime Cut Productions	Ensemble NI will engage with Hard To Reach Communities across Belfast, running a series of 4 workshops with 10 different groups. Using Drama we will explore the issues important to each community and the individuals participating in the project. This will culminate in a high-profile showcase in March 2018.	57.5%	£10,000.00	£0.00
25	WheelWorks	Three Dimensional (3D) video creation with young people from Saints Youth Club, exploring individual and community identity and pride	57.5%	£3,523.40	£0.00
26	Youth Initiatives	Future Builders is an outreach youth work project aiming to build bridges & friendships between at-risk young people from East & West Belfast. The project seeks to overcome misconceptions &	57.5%	£9,390.00	£0.00

		envision young people to become contributors to their community and reconciliation through community service, skills development single identity and community relations workshops.			
27	Terra Nova Productions	Me You Us Them' will engage participants across Belfast from Nov'17- Mar'18 in an interactive workshop programme exploring stories, thoughts and experiences of racism. Using Terra Nova's unique blend of workshops, masterclass weekends and interactive performance, the programme will cumulate in March 18 in a 4-day 'Me You Us Them' Roadshow.	57.5%	£9,717.80	£0.00
28	Cara-Friend	The aim of the project is to create and facilitate an LGBT affirming inter-faith forum for the advancement of equality and respect for LGBT members of the community.	57.5%	£10,000.00	£0.00
29	WheelWorks	WheelWorks' professional artists will work in partnership with young people from New Lodge, using a fusion of digital (animation) and traditional arts (narrative discovery/creative writing) as an educational tool to champion the theme of Good Relations, giving the young people a voice in their community and further afield.	57.5%	£3,743.20	£0.00
30	Training For Women Network	This project explores women's movements in early 20th century (1906-1918) during the proposal for home rule and women's suffrage,	57.5%	£9,916.80	£0.00

		examining the different views and actions of all sides of the community (Protestants/Catholics, unionists/nationalists) in celebration of the upcoming centenary of women's suffrage.			
31	Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens	The project is about promoting good relations to beneficiaries from across the Belfast Council area. The programme will tackle stereotypical views, racism, social exclusion and promote understanding among Belfast's citizens. The programme enables all participants will receive good relations training based on respect and cultural diversity.	57.5%	£3,900.00	£0.00
32	New Belfast Community Arts Initiative Trading As Community Arts Partnership	CAP wishes to run our cultural competency training (1 and 2 day sessions). Then develop these intercultural champions to share their practice with others including community leaders, shadow artists and participants to create a trickle down of more culturally curious and culturally competent citizens resulting in more social cohesion in NI.	53.75%	£9,999.12	£0.00
33	Apex Housing Association Ltd	The project will increase social skills and effective communications while promoting social inclusion for 20 men of differing religions. 2 x 10 week courses in history and media with 4 outings and visits to churches will break down barriers of division, sectarianism, racism and promote reconciliation through	53.75%	£9,414.00	£0.00

		discussion and socialising.			
34	Belfast Celtic Young Men	Belfast Celtic aim to deliver a 6 month programme with girls from our Under 9 and Under 11 teams. Due to the limited provision for females in NI, we want to promote good relations in safe and welcoming environment with a sustained cross-community project with teams from across the country.	53.75%	£2,996.00	£0.00
35	174 Trust	This project proposal will seek to maximise the Duncairn Complex and a shared and neutral place for people to come together building bridges and relationships that can withstand the rigours of an increasingly polarised macro political environment through consistent positive engagement across our richly diverse but divided city.	53.75%	£9,620.00	£0.00
36	The HUBB Community Resource Centre	To deliver a project that explores the history and legacy of Ireland's participation in the great war, to an older peoples group. The project will inform people surrounding the Island of Ireland within the context of the First World War. This will promote Good Relations through a shared history framework	53.75%	£3,300.00	£0.00

37	The Urban Community Chef CIC	We will deliver cultural cooking programmes in the community which will include volunteers from various countries. We will challenge participants on their views of asylum seekers and refugees and share cooking and food experiences from different countries. We will have a cultural celebration event at the end of the courses.	50%	£8,150.00	£0.00
38	SIPTU Belfast Hub	We are undertaking a yearlong consultation on, and celebration of our Union's Branch History. Which will culminate in an agreed design for our new Union banner, which is being replaced after 50 years.	50%	£3,000.00	£0.00
39	Ligoniel Improvement Association	20 women from across north Belfast from both PUL and CNR communities will participate in a 12 week green prescription. The programme will look at how the legacy of the troubles has impacted on the mental health of women from both sides of the community in North Belfast	46.25%	£3,381.10	£0.00
40	Instonians RFC	To use the medium of rugby to bring together the young people from 15 schools in a programme of community relations involving personal development and leadership training. The participants will learn about respect, diversity, healthy living and positive decision making.	46.25%	£10,000.00	£0.00

41	Urban Community Chefs	We will deliver cultural cooking programmes in the community which will include volunteers from various countries. We will challenge participants on their views of asylum seekers and refugees and share cooking and food experiences from different countries. We will have a cultural celebration event at the end of the courses.	42.5%	£6,605.00	£0.00
42	Beyond Skin	Workshops and Events delivered by #ArtsDialogue team representing decades of experience in peacebuilding in post conflict areas. Sri Lanka, Colombia, Israel, Palestine, Northern Ireland, Ireland. #ArtsDialogue team is a legacy outcome of the Global Youth Peace Summit (March 2017) supported by Belfast City Council Good Relations.	38.75%	£3,150.00	£0.00
43	Walled City Music	Harmony North is a pioneering schools project aimed at breaking down barriers between communities. Supported by a number of leading music organisations in Northern Ireland including Camerata Ireland and Walled City Music, it is a trailblazing interdenominational choir comprising 150 young people from nine Post Primary schools in North Belfast.	36.25%	£10,000.00	£0.00

44	Friends Of Partytime Garden	As part of our VAST - Villages and Schools Together Programme, delivered using our unique cross community activity model BRIDGE we have developed education and interaction programme which will deliver on key Good Relations, Citizenship and personal development indicators. PET focuses on conservation and education using our micro zoo and a tailored schools outreach programme. Its cross community basis will see state, catholic maintained and integrated schools participate on conservation education and practical projects. Our WALT - Working and Learning Together model has been developed and will be piloted through this project.	35%	£10,000.00	£0.00
45	Co-operation Ireland	The project will engage with marginalised groups to engage in meaningful cross community activity that builds relationships, extends intercommunity contact, completes joint social action projects and have a formal network of contacts, through a hub with mentor support.	28.75%	£10,000.00	£0.00
46	Association Darfur Of Northern Ireland (ADNI)	To foster the relationships between Darfur people and other communities in Northern Ireland. To show the local people our culture, tradition and integrate in the local community.	28.75%	£4,855.00	£0.00

47	Cooltura Polish Community Centre	The project will consist of series of activities and events aiming at presenting Polish culture and traditions to members of other ethnic minorities communities as well as local communities in order to let the communities get to know each other and create a cooperating multicultural society.	25%	£2,160.00	£0.00
48	Extern N.I.	Extern will provide trained sessional workers to build community links and cohesion. Through a series of workshops, information sessions, visits and meetings, we will build links, friendships and support networks.	25%	£9,950.00	£0.00
49	Northern Ireland Community Of Refugees And Asylum Seekers	The programme will allow people from several countries, cultures and faiths to explore their own beliefs and opinions, examine how they can live well in Northern Ireland and how they might integrate in a positive and empowering manner into Northern Irish society. The NICRAS committee will endeavour to ensure that	0%	£11,000.00	£0.00
50	ZKJ LTD	Fight to Unite will to target hard to reach people in life changing programmes which combine the adrenaline and status of Mixed Martial Arts with the a Relentless Youth Work approach, based on forging transformational relationships designed to build resilience and bring communities together.	0%	£7,000.00	£0.00

51	First Housing Aid And Support Services	Bringing young people together from Shankill inner city Belfast and East Belfast to share experiences from their communities in a safe environment through group work and creative projects. This will be done through a planned residential which will include workshops, group and team building tasks.	0%	£4,435.00	£0.00
52	Currie Primary School	This project will build on our previous BBC Good Relations Grant and help us continue to offer support to our most vulnerable parents, build capacity of these parents, increase confidence, skills and develop relationships between Tigersbay/Mountcollyer and Newington parents.	0%	£10,000.00	£0.00
53	Falls Women's Centre	Our Welcome Project has been running for one year. We support BME women integration into our community; learn about their neighbourhood, and create opportunities to build friendships thus reducing isolation and fear. The project is supported by volunteers at a cross-community level.	0%	£9,640.00	£0.00
54	St. Peters Immaculata Youth Centre	As part of the ongoing capacity building programme taking place within the youth centre staff team we aim to continue to develop the skills base of the staff who work on cross community contact programs. We would like to undertake a concentrated training programme with staff from four venues.	0%	£3,670.00	£0.00

55	Upper Springfield Resource Centre	to deter bonfire collecting and building in the upper springfield area	0%	£1,500.00	£0.00
56	45th Belfast Scout Group	This money will allow the group to improve the appearance of the church by making the railings tidier/replacing	0%	£4,700.00	£0.00
57	Rcity Media CIC	Rcommunity was an initiative set up to ensure long lasting changing in community safety and building communities together through creativity.	0%	£4,239.96	£0.00
				£377,392.79	£102,594.00

International Day of Peace

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide information on the current ways that International Day of Peace is observed and provide options for consideration on how to mark 2018 International Day of Peace and subsequent years.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To ask the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to note the recommendations that are made in relation to the options outlined below or to review the paper and consider the options presented noting the favoured recommendation from the Shared City Partnership.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

At the August meeting of the Shared City Partnership, members asked council officers to produce a report 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.

3.2 Context

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution, this is a day

devoted to “*commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.*” The International Day of Peace is also a day of ceasefire – personal or political.

Many diverse activities are organized in observance of the International Day of Peace. Events primarily focus on educational events and conferences, workshops, marches, musical celebrations, intercultural and interfaith gatherings. 263 events took place globally to mark Peace Day 2017.

- 3.3 A review of the activity delivered on International Day of Peace reveals that most cities hold small scale conferences and events. An example of a larger scale event is Peace Parade UK, which was an annual parade held in the northern England town of Rochdale from 2006 to 2009, to mark the International Day of Peace. It was attended by over 2,000 people each year and was supported by the government, celebrities and campaigners from across the UK. The Parade stopped in 2010, owing to lack of financial support. This event included performances from well known performers and replicating this model would have high cost implications.
- 3.4 It is worth noting that the delivery of any large scale event would require a minimum budget in the region of £30,000. Members will be aware that good relations activity that is delivered by council is 75% funded by the Executive Office (TEO) through the District Council Good Relations Programme. It is unlikely that the Executive Office would approve this level of resource for one event. However, the 2017 good relations audit did identify the need to deliver events which provided opportunities for communities across the city to come together at shared events.
- 3.5 Members may wish to consider that there are a number of other dates in the international calendar which also mark significant issues in relation to peace and reconciliation. These include Holocaust Memorial day, Community Relations and Cultural Diversity week and Refugee Awareness week. These dates are marked by the Good Relations Unit through events or training activities which take place on that day.

Belfast experience

- 3.6 For a number of years from 2008 – 2015 Belfast City Council’s Good Relations Unit (GRU) supported the Springboard Organisation to deliver a city wide event to mark International Day of Peace. Springboard delivered a number of events which usually incorporated the presentation of their inspiration awards to young people as well as an official observation of the date. These events were well attended, Springboard has a wide basis of participants from their programmes to draw on and the

awards recognised the contribution of young people in a number of different areas of work.

- 3.7 In 2016, a larger scale event was organized by GRU in collaboration with other community partners. However, this was not well attended and organisers identified the fact that a number of events were delivered on that day as a challenge in terms of ensuring a large number of participants.
- 3.8 Members will be aware Belfast City Council is currently undertaking a strategic review of all festivals and events in the city that the Council supports and delivers. This review will analyse the numbers, types and resources allocated to events and festivals. Therefore, any future development of the International Day of Peace should take cognisance of the outputs of any new Council strategy. For Members information, it is anticipated that the outcome of this review will be presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in December 2017 with recommendations being agreed after that date. Any agreement will be subject to a statutory public consultation period. Given these timelines, it is anticipated that in 2018/19 transitional arrangements will be applied before moving to a new approach for 2019/20.
- 3.9 Members should also note that a review of grant aid is currently ongoing. At present Council allocates in the region of £4 million of grant aid through 23 different grants streams. This piece of work is likely to align the outcomes in different grant streams and reduce the overall number of streams. There may be an opportunity to develop support for events that deliver good relations outcomes, such as those delivered on International Day of Peace through revised funding streams.
- 3.10 In 2017 and 2016 International day of Peace fell within Community Relations and Cultural Diversity week. This is a high profile initiative supporting the Northern Ireland Executive's Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) strategy. It provides a platform for organisations and groups across a variety of sectors to demonstrate innovative approaches to good relations and examples of how we can build a united and shared community. A large number of events are organised across Belfast and the province as a whole to mark this week.

While community relations week may not always take place at the same time as International Day of Peace, it is likely that where possible the two will occur on the same dates.

- 3.11 Members may be aware that there are also a number of significant annual events which take place in September each year. Of particular significance is Culture Night which takes place on the third weekend in September across Belfast. Culture Night has an established audience and is recognized as

providing an opportunity for residents of Belfast and beyond to come together and use city space as part of the activities provided.

It is worth noting that International Day of Peace is observed on 21 September each year, which means that events take place on different days of the week each year. For example, in 2018 the date falls on a Friday; 2019 a Saturday; 2020 it is a Monday. Therefore, delivering activities on a dedicated date has implications in terms of attracting sufficient participant numbers to be worthwhile and this would have to be considered in future planning. This is particularly the case when other established events take place on the same day of the week each year, for example Culture night is the third Friday in September which coincides with the date of International day of Peace.

- 3.12 Members are requested to consider the 3 options below and recommend one option for further consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources committee.

Options

Option 1

Mark International Day of Peace with a large scale outdoor event on 21 September each year which would form part of the Belfast City Council event schedule.

Advantages

This event would provide an opportunity to bring groups and individuals across Belfast together to mark the progress that has been made towards developing a peaceful society in the city

It would reaffirm the city's commitment to supporting peace and reconciliation

Disadvantages

Inclusion of this activity in the city's event schedule will be subject to the ongoing review of events and festivals

Additional resources for planning and delivery will have to be sought from Council as it is unlikely that TEO will provide the necessary resource to deliver this activity

There will be challenges in attracting sufficient participant numbers for events on the same annual date. In 2018, for instance, Culture Night is actually on International Day of Peace.

Option 2

Mark International Day of Peace with an indoor event on 21 September each year, this would provide an ongoing opportunity to highlight good relations work or consider the current challenges/opportunities for peace building. This is likely to be a conference or best practice event.

Advantages

This event would provide an opportunity to bring groups and individuals across Belfast together to mark the progress that has been made towards developing a peaceful society in the city

It would reaffirm the city's commitment to supporting peace and reconciliation

The event could be delivered through existing resources as part of the DCGRP

It is less challenging to ensure participant numbers for a conference event on the same date each year

Disadvantages

The delivery of this event will have to be prioritised within the Good Relations Action plan as it will require significant staff resource to deliver.

An indoor event will not have the same impact and is less likely to attract general members of the public if it is focused on good relations practitioners

Option 3

Seek expressions of interest from organisations to deliver a large scale event on International day of Peace. This would be targeted at groups who already deliver similar events around that time and could include for example Mela and Culture Night and other organisations who would have the capacity to deliver such an event with their own resources in addition to what council can make available.

Any process to seek expressions of interest would have to be open to ensure a fair and equitable process. This could be an interim arrangement for 2018/19 until the results of the review of grant aid and events and festivals have been fully implemented.

Advantages

This event would provide an opportunity to bring groups and individuals across Belfast together to mark the progress that

has been made towards developing a peaceful society in the city

It would reaffirm the city's commitment to supporting peace and reconciliation

A small financial resource could be provided as part of the DCGRP

A large scale outdoor event which promotes good relations would have a wider reach than an indoor conference type event and ensure wider participation numbers.

Disadvantages

The delivery of this event will have to be prioritised within the Good Relations Action plan as it will require significant staff resource to deliver.

Additional resources for planning and delivery will have to be sought from Council as it is unlikely that TEO will provide the necessary resource to deliver all of this activity

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

It is likely that up to £10,000 could be directed to this event from the DCGRP. If Option 1 or 3 is recommended, members will need to consider where this additional resource could be sourced from.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

These proposals will support activity that will promote good relations."

The Members considered the various options and discussed the fact that the Council was currently undertaking a strategic review of its City festivals and events, with the outcome likely to be presented at the December meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. Several Members requested that the International Day of Peace be prioritised within the context of this review. The Members noted that, as any agreement would be subject to a statutory public consultation period, it was unlikely that a decision regarding the 2018 International Day of Peace event would be possible within the context of the review recommendations.

Discussion ensued, following which the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

- the adoption of Option 3, as an interim arrangement for 2018/19, until the results of the review of City festivals and events was available; and
- due to the significance of International Day of Peace, it be prioritised within the context of the review.

Forthcoming Events

The Partnership was advised of the following events:

- Bonfire Best Practice Meeting – 18th October at 6.30 p.m. in the City Hall;
- Living Library - 25th October at 10.00 a.m. (details of the City centre venue would be provided following registration). The Partnership was advised that the Living Library was similar to a normal library, except the books were people who individuals could talk to for 20 minutes. There were 13 'Living Books' available to sample, a full list was available [here](#)
- Supporting Good Relations in Belfast – Networking and Information Event – 6th November, 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. in the City Hall.

Noted.

Chairperson