



<b>Subject:</b>	Peace and Beyond Conference: programme update and opportunities for Member engagement
<b>Date:</b>	7 February 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
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<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update Members on the upcoming Peace and Beyond Conference which will take place in Belfast from 10-12 April 2018</li><li>• Note that the opening reception will take place in Belfast City Hall on 10 April 2018 and agree to allocate £20,000 from the budget towards cultural animation and hospitality at that event</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the offer from the British Council to provide complimentary tickets for one elected member from each party to attend the Conference.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the update on the upcoming Peace and Beyond Conference which will take place in Belfast from 10-12 April 2018</li> <li>Note that the opening reception will take place in Belfast City Hall on 10 April 2018 and agree a budget allocation of up to £20,000 towards cultural animation and hospitality at that event. This funding has been set aside within existing Development Department budgets</li> <li>Accept the offer from the British Council to provide complimentary tickets for one elected member from each of the six main parties to attend the Conference</li> <li>Approve the attendance of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) and a representative from each of the other four main parties to avail of the other complimentary tickets.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	As Members will be aware, 10 April 2018 marks twenty years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).
3.2	The British Council, working with both universities as well as the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, is hosting a major conference in Belfast to mark the event. The Conference will take place in a number of venues across the City from 10-12 April 2018.
3.3	The objective of the Conference is to bring together policy makers and peace practitioners from around the world to share reflections on building effective, inclusive and sustainable peace. The series of plenary sessions, workshops, site visits and cultural events will create an open, inclusive and shared space for international dialogue to reflect upon the experience of peace processes across the world. These events will build on the Northern Ireland experience of and expertise in conflict resolution and peace building. By marking the achievement of the multi-track work that led to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, the Conference will provide opportunities for international dialogue to reflect on the

	<p>experience of everyday peace-building. The Conference will also reflect on the contribution of partners such as EU and USA in the achievement and continuation of peace and stability in Northern Ireland.</p>
3.4	<p>The British Council and its partners hope to attract a number of individuals who played a key role in the GFA negotiations to attend the event. Former US President Bill Clinton has been invited and a decision on whether or not he is able to participate is expected in the coming weeks. Those who have already confirmed their attendance include senior level representatives who have been involved in peace-building research and practice in locations such as South Africa, Libya, Colombia, Serbia and Lebanon.</p>
3.5	<p>One of the main aims of the Conference is to highlight the key role played by local organisations and institutions in building and securing the peace process. The third day of the Conference (12 April) will be dedicated to a series of site visits. These will include Girdwood Hub and the Innovation Factory. These will also offer an opportunity to showcase and highlight the role of Belfast City Council in supporting local communities to build sustainable approaches to peace and to encourage inclusive economic growth in the City.</p>
3.6	<p>It is expected that the event will attract more than 200 international visitors. It, therefore, presents a great opportunity to showcase the developments that have taken place in Belfast over the last few decades and to highlight the positive activities in local areas that have been driven by engaged and active community leaders. While the site visits and the input from the range of local speakers will ensure that the lessons learned are at the forefront of the agenda, there is also an opportunity to present a positive image of a confident and changed Belfast at the City Hall reception. The City Hall has played such an important role in much of the City's peace-building story. As the opening session of the event, it is proposed that Officers will work with the local cultural sector to curate a number of animation pieces that will tell the story of the City's development and that will also illustrate the breadth of the cultural talent in Belfast. In order to ensure that these cultural pieces have the impact that they need to, in keeping with the wider programme, it is proposed that a budget of £20,000 is set aside to cover both the animation and the hospitality costs associated with the event. This allocation has been set aside in departmental budgets for 2018/19.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality and good relations implications:</u> The Conference programme has been designed to ensure that it is reflective of all relevant groups in the City.</p>

3.8	<p><u>Financial and resources implications:</u></p> <p>The costs associated with hosting the event will be met by the British Council and others and there will be a cost associated with attendance at the event. The costs associated with hospitality and cultural animation for the Belfast City Hall welcome reception will be in the region of £20,000. This funding allocation has been set aside in departmental estimates for 2018/19.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None