

MEETING OF HISTORIC WORKING GROUP

Wednesday, 7th February 2018

Members present: Councillor Heading (Chairperson);
Alderman Spence;
Councillors Dudgeon and Hargey.

In attendance: Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager;
Mr. R. Heslip, Tourism Cultural Heritage
and Arts Development Officer;
Miss. C. Bradley, Tourism Cultural Heritage
and Arts Development Officer; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd November were approved as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Operation of the Historic Working Group

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Working Group that, at its meeting on 2nd November, 2017, it had agreed that the continuation of the Historic Working Group be considered at the Party Group Briefings in January. He provided an overview of the report in relation to the establishment and operation of the Historic Working Group and reminded Members that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had considered it appropriate that the Shared City Partnership, rather than the Historic Working Group, oversaw the Decade of Centenaries programme. He pointed out that the purpose of this meeting was to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee whether or not the Historic Working Group should continue to operate.

During discussion, a Member pointed out that he was dissatisfied that the Decade of Centenaries element had been removed from the Historic Working Groups' remit, however, quarterly meetings of the Group could be scheduled to discuss potential commemorative events that had not been included in the Decade of Centenaries Programme, together with other historical requests.

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Another Member concurred that the Working Group should remain operational, as it was an open forum and assisted with the transparency of decision making in relation to commemorative events. He advised that the Working Group also provided the opportunity for Members to receive updates on Historic Projects that the Council was involved in. He suggested that there was scope also to consider additional commemorative events as outlined in the 'Proposed list of Commemorative Events' previously submitted to the Working Group in November.

During further discussion, a Member suggested that the continuation of the Working Group would be a duplication of the work already being done by the Party Group Leaders' Forum. She suggested that as many commemorative events were sensitive and contentious, it would be appropriate for the Party Group Leaders' Forum to continue to deal with such matters. She advised that general historical requests could be submitted to the appropriate Committee for consideration. She highlighted that the current Decade of Centenaries Programme included numerous events and Members would be able to inform the discussion on such matters via their Party Group Leader.

The Chairperson advised that the Historic Working Group had not been allocated a budget to fund any additional events and that any decision taken by the Working Group could be over-ruled at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. He referred to the previous minute of 2nd November, which confirmed that Members could ask for specific events to be discussed at the appropriate Committee and that Standing Order 45. '*Request for a matter to be included on an agenda*' existed so that any Member who wished to have a particular matter included on the agenda for a meeting of a Committee, had the option to request it. He suggested that the Group should cease to operate and the interpretation of all commemorative events should be discussed by the Party Leaders' Forum and subsequently considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Democratic Services Manager clarified that minutes of the Party Group Leaders' Forum were produced for business purposes and the events outlined in Appendix 3 of the report under 'Proposed list of Commemorative Events' had not been agreed.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the Working Group agrees to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Historic Working Group continues to operate.

On a vote by show of hands two Members voted for the proposal and two against.

As there was an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote against the proposal and it was declared lost.

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Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

That the Working Group agrees to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Historic Working Group would cease to operate.

On a vote by show of hands two Members voted for the proposal and two against.

As there was an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote for the proposal and it was accordingly declared carried.

Chairperson