

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 11th JUNE, 2018

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Mr. M. Baker, Education Authority;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council; and
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;
Miss. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Also in attendance: Miss. J. Johnston, placement student from Queen's University.

Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Alderman Sandford and agreed that Councillor Kyle would remain as the Chairperson and Councillor Attwood as the Deputy Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Local Government Election in May, 2019.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Mrs. O. Barron, Mr. K. Gibson, Mrs. J. Hawthorne and Mr. P. Scott.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th May were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were recorded.

Presentation by Institute for Conflict Research on Brexit and eYou Project

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. G. Scullion to the meeting.

The representative commenced by providing the Partnership with a brief background to the Institute for Conflict Research (ICR). She advised that the ICR was an independent, not for profit, organisation that had been based in Belfast since 1996. ICR specialised in research, training, mediation and capacity building.

Ms Scullion explained that many EU/EEA Nationals had concerns regarding their future status in Northern Ireland following Brexit. This included, for example, fears about Brexit's potential impact on their economic and social rights, including their right to continue to live and work in Northern Ireland with their dependents, to access health services, access work, pension benefits and education.

The ICR, through the Brexit and eYou Project, sought to raise awareness of these issues and to help promote awareness and conversation amongst Northern Ireland politicians and the British and Irish governments to ensure that those concerns would be factored into any Brexit agreement.

The Partnership was advised that the ICR had undertaken case studies of 24 EU nationals. The aim of the case studies was to illustrate gaps in information and to highlight particular issues that had been identified such as having to make applications under the new regime, providing 5-year's lawful residency status, and the lack of accessible, detailed information and advice relevant to important decisions about their future lives in Northern Ireland.

Ms. Scullion stressed the need for these concerns to be acknowledged and stated that steps needed to be taken to ensure that EU/EEA nationals' rights were protected and enforceable post-Brexit. She stated that the ICR felt that there should be a publically funded service providing accessible, expert immigration advice and information for people in Northern Ireland.

Several of the Members shared the ICR's concerns regarding the level of uncertainty and challenges facing EU/EEA Nationals' post Brexit and the fact that there was currently such a disjointed approach in the provision of advice and guidance.

During discussion, the Education Authority representative confirmed that that organisation was very aware of the issues raised throughout the presentation. He advised that it was currently working to try and identify issues that might arise and to ensure that the appropriate guidance and advice was issued to school principals in advance of Brexit.

Ms. Scullion reiterated the need to raise awareness of these issues and to help promote awareness and conversation amongst Northern Ireland politicians. She drew the Members' attention to information that had been collated by the Migration Observatory, available [here](#). She explained that this document comprehensively detailed information regarding which EU Citizens might be at risk of failing to secure their rights after Brexit and she encouraged the circulation of this document.

The Good Relations Manager advised that the Council had recently established a Brexit Committee that was due to meet in August.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for the update provided and she left the meeting.

Following discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- the Good Relations Manager would submit a report to the Council's Brexit Committee which would detail the findings of the ICR Brexit and eYou report;
- a letter would be issued to The Executive Office seeking clarification regarding which Government Department would be overseeing the implementation of the rights issues of EU/EEA Nationals;
- the Housing Executive would be invited to presentation to a future meeting of the Partnership in relation to its work in respect of shared housing; and

- Belfast City Council would, in conjunction with the Representation of the European Commission in the UK, host an information event for EU/EEA Nationals to provide information on their rights in the context of Brexit.

Update on Belfast Agenda

(Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy and Mr. D. Cuthbert, Community Planning Project Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Chairman reminded the Partnership that it had agreed to receive regular updates on the progress of the Belfast Agenda from a good relations perspective.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy commenced by advising that the Belfast Agenda, Belfast's Community Plan, had been published in November 2017. He reported that attention had now turned to the delivery of the plan and its commitments. At the February 2018 meeting of the Community Planning Partnership, the partners had agreed to develop supporting Actions Plans to assure delivery of the stretch goals and actions highlighted with the Agenda's four priorities.

The Director advised that a series of engagements with partners was currently underway, the aim of which was to review the various stretch goals and existing activity to provide assurance for delivery and also to identify key strategic gaps and areas for collaborative focus over the next 18 – 24 months.

He detailed that an initial review of the Living Here priority, and specifically in relation to the stretch goal and commitments relevant to good relations and the work of the Shared City Partnership, had suggested that significant delivery was underway via the agreed annual Good Relations Action Plan, Peace IV Programme and work on interfaces and shared space.

At this stage in the presentation the Good Relations Manager provided a brief overview on some of the projects that were being progressed through the Peace IV Programme, Shared Space Programme and Urban Villages Initiative.

She reminded the Members that they had been invited to attend a 'good relations at the interface' networking event on Friday, 22nd June from 11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. at Crumlin Road Gaol. The 2018/19 Expression of Interest programme for work at Interfaces would be launched at this event and she encouraged the Members to attend.

The Director advised that the Community Planning Team would like to reflect this work within a draft Action Plan under the Living Here priority, with the aim of seeking the agreement of the Community Planning Partnership on a final version by September. He highlighted that actions to deliver on the specific good relations/shared city commitments in the Belfast Agenda would need to provide assurance for delivery of/contribution to the following Living Here Stretch Goals:

6. *Increase the proportion of young people from Belfast who think that local facilities are shared and open to all; and*
9. *Support communities to make progress towards reducing the number of physical barriers at interface sites.*

The Director advised that Members of the Shared City Partnership were invited to comment on these commitments in the context of the Partnership's priorities and work programmes to assist in the process of drafting the Action Plans.

The Partnership welcomed the ongoing engagement with partners, including the Shared City Partnership, to progress the development of Action Plans to support the delivery of the Belfast Agenda. Several of the Members reaffirmed the view that good relations considerations underpinned many areas of the Belfast Agenda's priorities and welcomed the opportunity to continue to be consulted from a shared city/good relations perspective. In addition, the Members advised that for transformational change to occur, imaginative, creative projects needed to be developed along with significant investment.

The Director concluded by welcoming any feedback from the Shared City Partnership on the key linkages/cross cutting issues where it was felt that good relations implications could be considered whilst progressing the delivery of the plan and its commitments.

Noted.

Update on Peace IV Programme

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report and to recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee to:

- **reframe the TechConnects project and the Supporting Communities project and retender.**
- **seek SEUPB approval to reduce interim targets for 2018.**
- **support and promote the Shared Space consultation exercise**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

As members are aware implementation and delivery of the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan is progressing.

3.2 Programme Update

Contract and project initiation for the Centenaries project have been finalised with Corrymeela. Engagement with community organisations is commencing.

As agreed by members, the Young Advocates project has been re-scoped and the tender opportunity is now open. A pre market engagement session, attended by 8 providers has taken place and feedback from providers has indicated that the session was

really beneficial. Similar sessions will be incorporated into all tender exercises.

The procurement exercise for various elements of the BPR 5 Supporting Communities Project (Connected Communities (BME) and Traveller and Roma Communities x 4 lots) has been concluded. There was considerable interest in the tender opportunities, however no submissions were received for 3 of the 5 tenders advertised. Mixed feedback from suppliers indicates that 2018 targets are too ambitious; budget constraints, whilst others felt that the project was too large. During the feedback discussions suppliers have indicated they would reconsider the opportunities if re-scoped.

The tender award for the delivery of TechConnects project has been declined by the successful provider, who cited budgetary constraints and challenging targets as the reasons for declining the contract. This has a significant impact on the implementation of the programme.

Therefore SCP approval is sought to reframe the above projects within the context of the approved activity and then retender the opportunities as soon as possible.

As a result of both the market response and negative response to the contract offer, the achievement of interim targets by December 2018 is unlikely (1060 participants in CYP projects and 450 participants in the 2 BPR projects). The interim targets are effectively the participant targets from June 2017 - December 2018, which SEUPB have stipulated must still be achieved by December 2018. The targets were highlighted as a major risk to implementation and given the shortening timeframe it is unlikely they will be achieved. An urgent meeting with senior officials in SEUPB to consider options and review the interim targets is being arranged.

Shared Space Project - The public consultation on the Shared Space project, focusing on the Springfield Dam Park draft masterplan – the first section of the overall ‘necklace’ of reconnection open spaces - is being launched on 11 June 2018. This scheme (ie majority of the Dam element) is also part funded by Department for Communities. The consultation launch will include a media campaign press release; BCC webpage, social media and email notifications/invitation. A leaflet and posters will also be produced, outlining the consultation and the draft designs of the scheme.

The following table provides an overview of the consultation method and details:

<u>Engagement method</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Audience</u>

Drop in session Tuesday 26th June, 10.00 – 16.00 Innovation Factory	Hold one drop in session to be widely promoted and advertised (local newspapers); to view and discuss proposals; complete hard copy questionnaire	<u>All</u>
Meetings (June to Sept)	Offer to residents; community networks/organisations; Disability groups; and special interest groups (fishing; outdoor activities) to discuss design proposal; provided opportunity to complete hard copy questionnaire.	<u>All</u>
On- line questionnaire (from launch)	Hosted on Council’s Citizen space via BCC website; view concept design plans; read more information about project; respond to questions about design and anticipated outcomes	<u>All</u>
Display boards (of masterplan design) at public venues (from launch)	Display large A0 boards of the draft concept design at Community Centres; E3; Farset; IF; Public Libraries; (additional board available upon request); sign post to BCC website for information and links to questionnaire	<u>All</u>

It is important that we have as wide a range of views as possible and would request that members support and promote the consultation exercise – SCP members will receive email notification when the launch goes live

3.3 Financial Management

Claims for period 14 totalling £64,244.63 have been submitted to SEUPB for verification. Spend for the period is £23,700 below forecasted figures, this variance is attributable to procurement issues. The total value of claims to date (Periods 1-14) is £203,702 of which £15,576 (Period 1-4 claims) has been received by Council. SEUPB is processing two claims at a time.

3.4 Governance

Implementation of AGRS recommendations are continuing with a Risk Workshop scheduled for 19 June 2018.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 The Programme Support Assistant and Monitoring and Verification Officer are now in post. Recruitment for 3 Thematic

Project Managers is underway. Recruitment is in line with that approved in the PEACE IV Local Action Plan and therefore there are no resource implications.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

**Update on the Bonfire and Cultural
Expression Programme 2018**

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 2018 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme to include an update on the groups who have been approved for funding through the 2018 Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of this report including the list of groups who have been approved for funding through the 2018 Programme. Members are also asked to recommend that officers are permitted to consider any further applications that are submitted in line with the corporate governance in relation to Belfast City Council’s approach to bonfires.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members may recall that at a Special meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources committee on 27 March 2018, elected members recommended an option that would allow delivery of a 2018 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

The initial closing date for the programme was Friday 11 May, this was extended by 10 days to Monday 21 May. Twenty-eight applications were received by the closing date; one application was subsequently withdrawn because the applicant group was folding. A full list of participating groups is attached in Appendix 1. Members will recall that approval for the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to be granted delegated authority to approve awards through the programme was given at the May council meeting.

3.3 Members will be aware that engagement on the issue of bonfires is ongoing and that officers continue to seek

opportunities to support positive cultural expression. Members are asked to recommend that officers are permitted to consider any further applications to the programme from groups who want to deliver positive interventions in line with the programme aims. Any such requests would be brought to senior officers and considered in line with the corporate governance that has been developed in relation to decisions on Belfast City Council’s approach to bonfires.

- 3.4 The following figures show the numbers of participating groups over the last 4 years.

	Number of July groups	Number of beacons
2015	44	6
2016	32	10
2017	32	9
2018	27	12

- 3.5 Members should note that two new groups have applied to take part in the programme and that there have been an additional three requests for beacons. Of the 7 groups who participated last year but have not applied in 2018 it is worth noting that one group was ineligible to apply following the Review Panel recommendation based on the group’s failure to meet programme guidelines. Another group will not have a bonfire this year. A number of community organisations have indicated that the bonfire groups that they work with do not wish to take part in the programme this year but will continue to engage with Belfast City Council and other statutory agencies to address negative behaviours sometimes associated with bonfire sites such as flytipping and community safety issues.

- 3.6 A procurement exercise for the repair, fill and installation of the bonfire beacons and fabrication of two additional beacons closed on Friday 8 June. The contract will be awarded w/c 11 June. An exercise to review the suitability of all sites is currently underway and decisions on the sites that receive beacons will be made based on this information.

- 3.7 Members will be aware that the issue of bonfires is very sensitive and that there are a range of views on the best way to respond. The 2018 Bonfire & Cultural Expression programme represents one approach to addressing the issues sometimes associated with bonfires and supports positive cultural expression through engagement. Belfast City Council also works with a range of partners to address some of the negative consequences of bonfires.

3.8 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Current costs

Repair, installation and transport of 10 beacons	£60,000 (this cost may increase, procurement exercise closes on 8 June 2018)
Funding for 27 events	£40,820
Cleansing costs for participating sites	£10,000
Monitoring	£3,000
Miscellaneous	£1,500
Total	£115,320

Available Budget

Good Relations programme	£50,000
Belfast City Council	£59,500
PCSP	£15,000
NIHE	£35,000 (unconfirmed for 18/19)
Total	£124,500 (confirmed) £159,500 (unconfirmed)

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Bonfire Programme aims to promote the positive celebration of culture which will have a positive impact on good relations. The programme is currently being equality screened.”

Appendix 1 - 2018 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme – List of awards

	Applicant Name	Detail	Amount awarded
1.	Ballysillan Youth for Christ	Beacon requested – new group	£1,750.00
2.	Belfast City Mission (Island Street Hall)	Event will replace bonfire held in 2017	£1,750.00
3.	Brown Square Development Association (Beacon)	Beacon requested	£1,250.00
4.	Clarawood Action Group (Beacon)	Beacon requested – this will replace traditional bonfire held in 2017	£1,750.00
5.	Connswater Community & Services Ltd.	Community Event	£1,250.00
6.	Cosy Historical & Cultural Society	Community Event	£1,250.00

	Applicant Name	Detail	Amount awarded
7.	Diamond Project (Charter NI)	Beacon requested	£1,750.00
8.	Dunmurry Community Association	Bonfire	£1,720.00
9.	East Belfast Alternatives (Bapaume)	Beacon requested	£850.00
10.	East Belfast Alternatives (Branial)	Bonfire	£1,250.00
11.	East Belfast Alternatives (Longfellow Community Event)	Bonfire	£1,250.00
12.	East Belfast Alternatives (Templemore Action Group)	Community Event	£1,250.00
13.	East Belfast Ladies Historical & Cultural Society	Beacon requested	£1,250.00
14.	Eastside Women's Project (Charter NI)	Bonfire	£1,750.00
15.	Highfield Residents Association	Beacon requested	£1,750.00
16.	The Hubb	Community Event	£1,750.00
17.	Lower Oldpark Community Association	Bonfire	£1,750.00
18.	The Hubb (New Beginnings)	Community Event	£1,750.00
19.	Parkgate Community Association (Beacon)	Beacon requested – new group	£1,750.00
20.	Sunningdale Bonfire Group	Beacon requested	£1,250.00
21.	Tullycarnet Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT)	Bonfire	£1,750.00
22.	Tullycarnet Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT)	Beacon requested	£1,750.00

	Applicant Name	Detail	Amount awarded
23.	Tullycarnet Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT)	Bonfire	£1,750.00
24.	Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association	Bonfire	£1,750.00
25.	West Belfast Athletic & Cultural Society	Community Event	£1,250.00
26.	Wheatfield Action Project	Beacon requested	£1,250.00
27.	Whitecity Community Development Association	Beacon requested	£1,250.00

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it:

- note the list of groups that had been approved for funding through the 2018 Programme; and
- authorise officers to consider any further applications that might be submitted in line with the corporate governance in relation to Belfast City Council's approach to bonfires.

Update on Review of Shared City Partnership

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the review of the Shared City Partnership.

She advised that Ms. Ann Marie White, Refugee Services Operations Manager, with the Red Cross would sit on the Partnership on the Migrant Forum's behalf. Dr Yousuf Hanori had been appointed as the Interfaith Forum's representative. She confirmed that both of these representatives would be invited to attend the August meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

In respect of the recruitment of the four representatives from the community and voluntary sector, the Partnership was reminded that Volunteer Now had been selected to undertake the recruitment exercise. The call for applications had closed on 25th May and she, along with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, had met on 31st May in order to shortlist the candidates with the support of Volunteer Now.

The Partnership noted that interviews were scheduled for 14th and 22nd June and that a paper would be submitted to the August meeting.

The Good Relations Manager requested that, in the event that the process was not successful in returning a representative for a particular area, a more targeted approach to recruitment be commenced within the specific areas in order to try and enhance interest

and encourage more applications. Once again, this would be undertaken with the assistance of Volunteer Now.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that, in the event that the current process was not successful in returning a representative for every area, a more targeted approach to the recruitment exercise would be undertaken within those specific areas.

Good Relations Strategy

The Partnership was advised that promoting Equality and Good Relations had been a key element of the Council's work since the Council adopted "Promoting Good Relations" as a Key Corporate Objective in 2001. By 2003, the Council had agreed and adopted its first Good Relations Strategy and set up a dedicated Good Relations Unit to deliver on the aims of the strategy.

The Good Relations Manager advised that the Belfast Agenda, the community plan for Belfast, had been launched in November 2017 and it was felt that it was an opportune time for the Council to develop a new and revitalised Good Relations Strategy for the City which would include the area of Shared Space.

She reported that the Council was currently seeking to engage the services of a consultant to develop a new Good Relations Strategy for Belfast. The consultant's objectives would be as follows:

- to undertake consultation and research as to what components would form the essence of a strategy. Consultees would include, but not be limited to, members of the Shared City Partnership, Council staff, service users, statutory partners and grant recipients; and
- to develop, in concise and plain English, a new Good Relations strategy for Belfast City Council.

The Partnership was advised that it was expected that the consultant would be appointed week commencing 11th June. It was anticipated that the appointed contractor would arrange dates for engagement with Members of the Partnership over the summer period (June – August).

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the process underway to progress the development of a new Good Relations Strategy for the Council.

International Day of Peace

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting held on 9th October 2017, it had agreed to prioritise the delivery of a large event to mark International Day of Peace in 2018. Subsequently, £10,000 had been allocated towards this event from the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan.

She reported that the United Nations' International Day of Peace was marked each year on 21st September which, this year, would be the same date as 2018 Culture Night Belfast.

The Partnership was advised that officers had drawn up the following draft Programme:

**Appendix 1: International Day of Peace 2018 –
The Right to Peace (marking the 70th anniversary of
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

There will be three distinct elements to events to mark International Day of Peace 2018:

1. Engagement with Culture Night to bring a Peace theme into their events which will take place on the 21st September
2. Engagement with the local Arts sector to create community involvement and develop some legacy art pieces, in the lead up to and displayed on, the 21st September
3. The delivery of a large conference event in City Hall on the 21st September to launch a consultation on the Council's new Good Relations Strategy, observe International Day of Peace and recommit the Council to Good Relations, Peace and Reconciliation.

The Council's Tourism, Culture, Arts and Heritage Unit will lead on parts 1 and 2 above, through the allocation of resources to the Cathedral Arts Quarter and the Community Arts Partnership.

The Council's Good Relations Unit will lead on part 3, the conference event.

Proposal: To deliver a large event in City Hall to mark International Day of Peace 2018. This event will be used to launch the Council's Good Relations Strategy and refocus the Council's commitment to building Peace and Reconciliation. The event will last from 10.00 am – 1.30p m. The event will be open to Councillors on Belfast City Council, local MLA's, statutory and Government partners, Good Relations groups and participants on Good Relations programmes.

Estimated numbers: 200. Round tables of 10 people per table. Great Hall, City Hall

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| 10.00 am | Arrival; tea/coffee. |
| 10.30 am | Welcome: Cllr John Kyle; Chair of the Shared City Partnership |
| 10.45 am | Community Arts installation – the story of Peace |
| 11.00 am | Good Relations Strategy launch and key elements within the strategy. Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, Belfast City Council. |

- 11.15 am **Keynote speech “The importance of Building Peace and Reconciliation – 20 years after the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement” (Rev. Trevor Williams, Retired Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and former Leader of the Corrymeela Community)**
- 12.00 pm **Observance of International Day of Peace and statement by the Lord Mayor of Belfast (Lord Mayor)**
- 12.15 pm **Music (TBC)**
- 12.45 pm **Closing comments: Cllr Tim Attwood, Deputy Chair of the Shared City Partnership**
- 1.00 pm **Lunch**

Noted.

Homeless Jesus Sculpture

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 **This purpose of this paper is to advise Members of a request to support the siting of a bronzed sculpture entitled ‘Homeless Jesus’ on a bench outside City Hall to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness within Belfast.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 **The Partnership is asked to consider the request and offer any comments which should be forwarded to the relevant Committee for decision.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 **Officers have recently been contacted in relation to a request for support to site the bronzed sculpture entitled ‘Homeless Jesus’ on a bench outside City Hall to raise awareness of homelessness within the City. One such sculpture currently exists outside Centenary House on Victoria Street which is run by the Salvation Army.**

3.2 **The sculpture which was designed by Timothy Schmalz depicts Jesus as a homeless man sleeping on a bench and can be identified as Jesus by the marks on the feet. It has been in existence worldwide since 2013 and has been placed in areas within Madrid, Singapore, Dublin, and Glasgow.**

3.3 **The request was taken to the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on Tuesday 8th May where it was agreed that Officers would consult with the Shared City**

Partnership to explore the request and noted that a further report would be submitted to the relevant Committee in due course.

4.0 Key Issues

4.1 Further to the last meeting of the Shared City Partnership, members were forwarded a copy of the paper which went to the People and Communities Committee in May.

4.2 To summarise, there are currently plans for a procession to take place from Centenary House to the Morning Star Hostel on the Falls Road which is run by the Legion of Mary to install the statue. A date for this event has yet to be organised.

4.3 Council's support is being sought for the placement of the Homeless Jesus sculpture on a bench outside the grounds around City Hall. It is envisaged that a walk from the Morning Star Hostel to the City Hall during the week of 11th-18th November which has been designated as an annual event to highlight homelessness would take place. This event would involve representatives from the four main churches as well as the Salvation Army and the culmination of the walk would be the siting of the sculpture.

4.4 In response to the report which was sent out to all members, a letter was received from the Department For Communities which has been circulated. Comments were also received advising that the views of other organisations directly involved with homelessness should be considered as there are a number of wider issues which are associated with homelessness in the City.

4.5 Members should also be aware that following the article in the media after the People and Communities Committee, an objection was raised on behalf of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The church understands that the homelessness is a serious issue and one that should be addressed by Council, community groups and churches. They would welcome any efforts to tackle the issue. However, they advise that while the project is well intended, they do not believe that a 'Homeless Jesus' does anything to address the issue. Furthermore, in the process, it would bring offence to many Christians who do not believe that any imagery of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) should be made and would be considered blasphemous.

4.6 The Good Relations Manager met with representatives from the various organisations involved and the following points were made:

- The organisers regard the statue as a symbol in a city which has been divided but which comes together to highlight the issue of the vulnerable in our city.

- The council has passed a number of motions regarding homelessness and also showing support for the work of faith groups.
- The sculpture is essentially an art piece and the viewer decides what perspective they wish to take – the sculpture is not there to support a particular religious view, rather it is meant to be symbolic.
- The piece is meant to be interactive, people will be able to sit beside the sculpture on the bench.
- The sculpture would also be a further feature piece for tourism – the group advised that this has been the experience in Dublin.

4.7 It should be noted that while the Council does not have an overall policy on the development of public art, there are protocols in place and Officers often refer to the best practice guidelines from the Arts Council Northern Ireland which are referred to in the letter from the DFC. These guidelines mostly centre on the commissioning of art which the Council is not being asked to do in this case, rather it is the granting of approval for the site.

4.8 Bearing in mind the comments from the SCP members, the following actions were agreed at the meeting on 1st June, some of which would address concerns around the potential impacts on Section 75 groups as well as practical points for consideration.

- It was agreed that the Council through the Good Relations Unit would facilitate a meeting with the Interfaith Forum to ascertain views around the sculpture.
- The group would contact other organisations working on the issue of homelessness to ascertain their support for the project.
- It was noted that the centenary of the end of WW1 and Interfaith week were also taking place in the week of 11-18 November. In addition, the setting up of the Christmas markets was due to commence in that week. Officers would check if these arrangements were confirmed and if the week in November was not suitable, a date in Sept/October would be explored.
- Practicalities:
 - a) Permission of Department For Infrastructure for siting of sculpture as the Department is responsible for the public footway outside the grounds of City Hall.
 - b) Explore if planning permission is required
 - c) Future arrangements i.e. whole life costs
 - d) Installation which needs to meet with BCC/DFI requirements
 - e) Insurance and health and safety requirements

4.9 As part of the process, Officers will liaise with relevant staff in the Tourism, Culture Heritage and Arts Section as well as Facilities Management to ensure the report brought back to Committee covers all aspects of the project.

4.10 Financial and Resource Implications

Officers have been advised that costs regarding the production of the sculpture are already covered. The organisations involved have indicated they would be willing to enter into an agreement regarding ongoing maintenance costs.

4.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications are being considered in the development of options and are being addressed as through the actions outlined above.”

The Partnership noted the mixed views on this proposal and agreed that it was important that these were collated and reported back to the relevant committee for consideration.

Following discussion, the Partnership agreed that the officers would liaise with the groups as outlined in the report and also with the relevant staff in the Tourism, Culture Heritage and Arts Sections to establish any views and opinions regarding the proposal, with a report to be submitted to the August meeting of the relevant committee for further consideration.

Emergency Intervention Funding 2018/19

The Good Relations Manager outlined that Emergency Intervention Funding from the Executive Office might be made available again this year and she sought approval to progress the application process using the same criteria as used previously.

She explained that, for the past number of years, the Executive Office had contacted the Good Relations Unit regarding late intervention in response to unforeseen community tension for areas which had not been included in the planned programme delivered through the Summer Intervention Fund. The Executive Office had noted that such need was often identified by Ministers and local representatives in response to local community tensions that had arisen suddenly and emergency contingency arrangements had been put in place with the Council's Good Relations Unit.

Previously, the Partnership had agreed that approval could be granted to requests for funding during an emergency situation which would support good relations activity that would normally have met the criteria of the Fund. These would only be made in exceptional circumstances and would be considered in consultation with the Chairperson of the Good Relations Partnership. In the event of such, a report would be brought back to the Partnership at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Members were advised that, in order to agree the facility, contact arrangements would have to be prepared between the Executive Office and the Council. The emergency intervention funding would only be allocated when it had been approved by two of the named Executive Office officials by e-mail, up to a maximum value of £1,000 per intervention.

The Partnership agreed the arrangements for Emergency Intervention Funding, should funding become available, which would be the same as in previous years.

Chairperson