

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 11th FEBRUARY, 2019**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Johnston and Walsh.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;  
M Yousuf Hannore, Interfaith Partnership;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman Sandford, Councillors Armitage, Attwood and Mr. M. Baker, Mrs. G. Duggan, Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Mr. A. Cole and Ms. A. M. White.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 14th January, 2019 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. J. Donnelly declared an interest in agenda item 4, viz Peace IV Update, as he was a Director of Programmes for the Active Communities Network which was delivering the Playing Our Part Project under Peace IV. Mr. J. Currie declared an interest in the same agenda item as an employee of the East Belfast Community Development Association.

Mr. P. Mackel declared an interest in agenda item 7, viz Motion on Anti-Semitism as he was a member of the Trade Union Friends of Palestine.

#### **Presentation - Cooperation Ireland on its Young Advocates Project**

The Chairperson reminded the Partnership that it had previously agreed to invite a representative from Cooperation Ireland to provide an update on the Young Advocates

Programme which it was delivering under the Children and Young People's Theme as part of the Peace IV Action Plan.

Mr. C. Fanning, representing Cooperation Ireland, was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Fanning commenced by providing the Partnership with a brief outline of the Young Advocates Programme. He advised that the aim of the Young Advocates Programme was to enable young people to build long term relationships with other young people across the City whilst breaking down barriers through learning about diversity and inclusion. Ultimately, Young Advocates aimed to give young people a platform to have their voices heard both within their local communities and through Local Government.

The representative detailed that the programme used a citizenship intervention model and explained that engagement would take place with 80 young people (20 per annum), aged 16 to 24 on a cross community basis to actively champion issues across the political divide and to develop the capacity of young people to become leaders in their communities and advocates for peaceful change. Once trained, the Young Advocates would work with other young people aged 11-16 across the City to plan and deliver youth led sessions in order to create positive social change.

Mr. Fanning then provided an overview of the programme delivery to date:

- programme one commenced in September 2018 and participants were now approaching the end of this programme;
- through the programme the participants had gained four qualifications, activity and training residential experience and an opportunity to plan and deliver a youth led campaign around the issue of crime in Belfast;
- it had enabled four additional local based youth providers to engage with the programme;
- young people had undertaken significant and regular engagement with their peers across the City building confidence in relationships and cultural difference;
- programme two had been launched in January 2019; and
- the Young Advocates would design and deliver two cross community and cross border conferences.

He also detailed a number of the challenges that the programme had faced as follows:

- initial difficulty in finding delivery partners in East Belfast;
- difficulty in ensuring an even balance of participants in specific target areas;
- low confidence levels of young people involved which required additional support mechanisms to be introduced, including additional support for literacy; and
- a lack of minority ethnic representation.

Mr. Fanning concluded the presentation by thanking the Shared City Partnership for permitting him to provide it with an update in respect of the Young Advocates Programme and he welcomed the Council's support around the promotion of the campaign.

The Partnership welcomed the delivery of the youth led campaign around the issue of crime in Belfast and suggested that the Council could take on board the learning points arising from this programme.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for his informative presentation and he left the meeting.

### **Update on Peace IV**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

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

**2.0 Recommendations**

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and to recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee to also note the report.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

Implementation and delivery of the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan is progressing.

**Children and Young People (CYP)**

All outstanding baseline surveys for 2018 participants have now been completed and the final participant figure is 850, slightly up from the anticipated figure reported to SEUPB and closer to the 916 interim target. An overview of participants by project, gender and community background is available on mod.gov, monitoring of this information will continue to ensure the required 50/50 community split.

Following a robust assessment process, the contract for the design and deliver an accredited good relations training programme for 1800 participants On the Right Track! project has been awarded to Active Communities Network. Contractual details are being finalised with delivery expected to commence in mid February 2019.

**Building Positive Relations (BPR)**

Following pre-market engagement sessions, the tender opportunities for the Traveller and Roma projects are currently being re-scoped.

Initial steps to mobilise the Transform for Change Leadership project are underway with a preliminary premarket engagement session scheduled for 4 February 2019.

**Shared Space and Services (SSS)**

Engagement is continuing with key partnerships and groups/organisations across the Connected Spaces network

area, raising awareness and sharing information on the capital project proposals and programming ideas.

A successful community engagement workshop, attended by 58 people took place on 31 January 2018. The general feedback shows broad support for the scheme, identified areas of concern and provided a valuable platform to finalise the location options. In addition, suggestions for possible programming ideas were explored.

The next steps is to review the feedback and prioritise key actions. Community engagement at a local level will also be progressed.

### Rebid

SEUPB has completed the financial update of the eMS system and is progressing the issue of a Letter of Offer, which we anticipate received in the next few weeks.

### Financial and Resource Implications

Due to the modification process on eMS, no further claims have been submitted to SEUPB. Claims for Periods 16 and 17, 1st August 2018 – 31st October 2018 and 1st November 2018 – 31st January 2019 will be submitted for formal vouching and verification once this process has been concluded.

### Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Partnership noted the update provided.

### Draft Good Relations Action Plan

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Council submits an annual Action Plan to the Executive Office (TEO) every year in order to draw down funding for the Good Relations work of the Council. TEO have requested submission of this years' Action Plan by 15th February 2019 and the plans for the subsequent 2 financial years by 15th March 2019

The purpose of this report is to advise of the content of the draft Action Plans for 20/21 & 21/22 and seek approval to forward the Plan to TEO.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- To recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the attached draft Action Plans 2020/21 & 2021/22 be submitted to TEO.

- **Members are also requested to note that this Action Plan submission is subject to agreement by Council in relation to any estimates setting exercise and also amendment during the assessing and scoring process that will be undertaken by TEO. The Council will be notified of any changes in the final approved Action Plans.**
- **Members are also asked to note the Plans are subject to the findings of the Good Relations Audit which will be undertaken in 2019/20 as required by TEO.**

### **3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 Members were advised at the last meeting that previously, DCGRP funding had been allocated for one year, and DCGRP Action Plans had been submitted on that basis. In the recent guidance, TEO have advised that from this year, the DCGRP will operate over a 3 year indicative funding cycle.**
- 3.2 Therefore, the Action Plan 19/20 which was approved by SCP in January 2019 included a section for each funded programme assessing the potential for the project to develop over the next two funding cycles.**
- 3.3 In addition, two Action Plan summaries relating to 20/21 and 21/22 are to be submitted by 15th March 2019. These documents will form the Council's three year DCGRP Action Plan. This three year Plan will be assessed, revised where appropriate and an allocation agreed with the Council for Year 1, subject to a satisfactory assessment and availability of budget. In Years 2 and 3, following a positive evaluation and availability of budget, allocations will be agreed for each programme. At the end of the three years, an overall report will be submitted to TEO covering the entirety of delivery across the three year action plan and an in depth assessment of the good relations outcome of the Programme will be conducted.**
- 3.4 TEO have advised that their opening budget position for 19/20 has not yet been confirmed, However, it is expected to be on a similar scale to the 18/19 allocation. There is no indication about budgets for the following 2 years but the attached Plans have been drawn up on similar lines. The same also applies to the Council's contribution in 20/21 and 21/22 as this is agreed annually and any contribution will be subject to Council approval.**
- 3.5 Members are also asked to note that as part of the Plan for the 19/20 financial year, an allocation has been made to undertake a good relations audit which details the good relations needs and issues within the City and is used by the TEO and Council as the rationale for the subsequent DCGRP Plans. Councils are asked to undertake these audits every 3 years.**

**3.6** Therefore, the two plans will be subject to the findings of the audit to be undertaken next year and could then potentially alter. However, any proposed changes would be brought back to the Shared City Partnership for approval.

**3.7** Members are requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they approve its submission to the Executive Office for the deadline of 15th March 2019.

**3.8** **Financial & Resource Implications**

The plan will be 75% funded by TEO with the remaining 25% included in the Council's 2019/20 budget. The Council has made provision to support Good Relations Activity with an amount which is in excess of the required 25% contribution included in the budget for 19/20. Funding supports a portion of some of the salaries within the Good Relations Unit. The programme bid for 20/21 and 21/22 totals £710,050 and £707,500 respectively, with an amount of averaging £532,000 being requested from TEO. The Plan will be submitted with the caveat that the Council's contribution for both financial years will be subject to Council's annual budget setting exercise.

**3.9** **Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs assessment**

The attachments contain information on the work of the Council in promoting Good Relations. There are no anticipated negative equality and good relations implications within this submission."

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

**Update from Shared City Partnership Planning Session**

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an overview of the Shared City Partnership (SCP) planning session that had been held on Friday, 1st February. The Members were reminded that the planning session had been organised outside of normal Partnership business, to give the Members an opportunity to talk more informally about the work of the Partnership, its role and future focus. She reported that eight Members of the Partnership had attended the session which had taken the form of a group discussion and had proven to be extremely productive.

The officer outlined the following proposed actions that had arisen from the session:

- the SCP would request to meet with the Council's Senior Management Team and Party Group Leaders to emphasise the strategic importance of the SCP and good relations;
- it was noted that the membership of the SCP was cross party and this needed to be reflected at its monthly meetings in terms of regular attendance from the Members;
- when the new Good Relations Strategy was agreed, it was suggested that a cross party foreword be added to the Strategy

which would outline the support for good relations and ownership of the Strategy; and

- the SCP felt that it needed to promote the good work that had already been undertaken by the Partnership. The work of the PSNI around social media was recognised as a model of good practice to dispel myths and encourage people to engage.

### **Actions to ensure that the work of the SCP was effective**

- it was noted that, whilst the reports submitted to the SCP contained recommendations, the Members of the Partnership were actively encouraged to challenge and/or come up with alternative options;
- it was agreed that the SCP would be more proactive in inviting organisations/individuals to present that were linked to the prioritised work of the Partnership;
- it was agreed that more informal 'presentation days' would be convened outside of the normal monthly meeting of the Partnership which would allow more time for discussion on agenda matters at the Partnership meetings;
- it was agreed that, due to the formality of the meetings, officers would investigate holding the meetings in a more informal setting;
- it was agreed that officers would explore the options available to convene some of the monthly meetings at an external venue;
- it was agreed that the contact details for the Area Neighbourhood Managers would be circulated to the Partnership Members; and
- it was agreed that officers would investigate the opportunity to link with the Belfast PCSP to explore issues of mutual concern.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it agree to the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations and actions.

### **Request for Presentation**

The Partnership was advised that the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) and Young Life and Times Surveys (YLTS) each year carried out surveys and documented public opinion on a wide range of social issues. The surveys were a joint project of the two Northern Ireland universities and provided an independent source of information in regard to public attitudes.

The Good Relations Manager reported that in November 2018 a research update was provided based on the NILT and YLTS findings on attitudes to asylum seekers and refugees. This research provided some interesting figures in relation to how welcoming Northern Ireland was for asylum seekers and refugees.

The Partnership agreed to invite researchers from the NILT and YLTS to a future meeting to share the findings in relation to understanding sentiment towards asylum seekers and refugees.

### **Motion on Anti-Semitism**

The Partnership considered a report which sought it to consider the definition of anti-Semitism. The Partnership was advised that, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 25th January, had forwarded this matter to the Partnership for its consideration.

The Members considered the proposed wording and the various points for consideration that had been highlighted by the officers. During discussion, it became apparent that the Members felt that this matter should not be considered in isolation and felt that it was important to take into account a range of views on the issue.

The Members also referred to the request from Mr. S. Jaffe from the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel to address the Partnership and, in the context of having due regard to listening to views from minority communities, agreed that, whilst it would be useful to hear his representation, it would also be helpful to hear from other minority groups.

The Partnership agreed that consideration of the matter would be deferred to enable officers to submit a report to the March meeting which would enable the Members to consider the wording of the antisemitism motion in a wider context.

### **Update on Regeneration of Navarra Place**

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an update on the progress in respect of the delivery of a regeneration scheme in Navarra Place. She reminded the Partnership that this project was to develop a new playground and MUGA at Navarra Place, which would result in the removal of a DoJ owned interface. Consultations had taken place with the local community in April 2017 and feedback on both aspects of the project had been extremely positive.

The Partnership was advised that the regeneration work was being co-funded by the DoJ in association with the Council. The officer detailed that the pre-tender estimate for the project was £400,000. In November 2019, the DoJ had provided a written letter of offer, which confirmed that it would provide 50% of the funding for the project up to a maximum of £200,000. She advised that this funding had to be spent by the end of the financial year and that the Council would meet the remainder of the required funding through its Capital Programme scheme.

In addition, the Council's Good Relations Unit would deliver a good relations programme between January and March 2019. Funding of £10,000 would be used to fund an artist/facilitator to work with the two communities of Greater Whitewell and White City to produce a shared artwork for the new playground. The officer advised that assessment had taken place on 13th December, 2018 and the successful artist had been appointed and had commenced work in January. The final artwork would be erected in the playground upon the completion of all construction works.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

### **Update on NISMA/NILGA Subgroup**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that she had been appointed as the nominated officer, along with the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership, to the NI Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP), hosted by Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), to a cross-council Sustainable Communities and Demographics Working Group.

She reminded the Partnership that the working group aimed to be instrumental in identifying and addressing council needs and concerns relating to changing demographics and ensuring that these were understood by decision makers at both Westminster and Stormont. In the first instance, its primary focus would be to determine the impact of migration on the economic and social priorities for each council.



The Good Relations Manager advised that the NISMP had met three times since September and she drew the Members' attention to the group's Terms of Reference and Work Plan.

The officer detailed the group's Strategic Objectives as follows:

- to ensure that policies and practices in Northern Ireland were informed by an understanding of council demographics; and
- to ensure that elected representatives and policy makers understood the factors which determined migration stocks and flows and how these might be influenced to help meet council social and economic priorities and to promote community wellbeing.

In addition, the officer reported that the Action Plan highlighted four objectives under which the activities and outcomes were highlighted.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

### Events Update

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members' attention to the forthcoming events, as detailed below:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>How to register</b>
Draft Good Relations Strategy Consultation Event	21st February Girdwood 12.00pm – 2.00pm	David Robinson ext: 6030	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Draft Good Relations Strategy Consultation Event	25th February City Hall 6.30pm – 8.00pm	David Robinson ext: 6030	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Draft Good Relations Strategy Consultation Event	26th February Crescent Arts Centre 7.00pm – 9.00pm	David Robinson ext: 6030	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Draft Good Relations Strategy Consultation Event	4th March East Belfast Networking Centre 1.00pm – 3.00pm	David Robinson ext: 6030	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Draft Good Relations Strategy Consultation Event	7th March Colin Allotments 12.00pm – 2.00pm	David Robinson ext: 6030	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Refugee and Arabic Cultural Information Workshop	27th February City Hall 10am-1pm	Leish Dolan ext: 6028	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Visit to the Belfast Islamic Centre	7th March Belfast Islamic Centre 11.00am-2pm	Leish Dolan ext: 6028	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Irish Cultural and Linguistic Experience	27th March An Droichead 10.00 am -12pm	Leish Dolan ext: 6028	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663
Living Library Event	27th March Black Box 1.00-4.00pm	Leish Dolan ext: 6028	<a href="mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk">goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> or telephone 02890 270663

Noted.

### **Committee Schedule for April**

The Members were advised that, at the January meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it had been noted that all political parties would be extremely busy with canvassing in the lead up to polling day for the Local Government Elections, and particularly during the month of April. It had been agreed that it would be necessary to continue with the Standing Committees in that month, however, there were a number of Working Group meetings scheduled to be held in April, including the Shared City Partnership, and it had been agreed that the Committee would request that the Partnership consider cancelling its scheduled meeting for April.

The Partnership agreed that the meeting of the Shared City Partnership scheduled for Monday, 8th April would be cancelled.

Chairperson