

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 11th MARCH, 2019

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. A. Cole, Good Relations, TEO;
Mrs. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector; 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;
Mr. R. Black, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillor Armitage, and Mr. J. Currie, Mr. J. Donnelly, M Yousuf Hannore, Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Mr. P. Mackel, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Ms. A. M. White.

Expression of Sympathy

The Chairperson advised the Members of the death of the wife of M Yousuf Hannore and it was agreed that a letter of sympathy would be forwarded on behalf of the Partnership.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th February, 2019 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in agenda item 4, viz Peace IV Update, as she was associated with possible bids in respect of the re-scope of the BPR5 Supporting Communities project - Roma element under Peace IV. She took no part in any discussion.

Presentation - 'A Welcoming Northern Ireland'

The Partnership was reminded 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 advised that in November 2018 a research update was provided based on the NILT and YLTS findings on attitudes to asylum seekers and refugees this was entitled 'A Welcoming Northern Ireland?'. The research had provided some interesting figures in relation to how welcoming Northern Ireland was for asylum seekers and refugees and, as previously agreed, a representative from Ulster University had been invited to share the findings.

Accordingly, Dr. L. Michael, a Lecturer in Sociology at the Ulster University, was welcomed to the meeting and she proceeded to review the data from the report as follows:

- the data recorded the opinions of over 1,200 adults and 1,100 young people from Northern Ireland aged 16 and over;
- only half of adults believed that Northern Ireland was a welcoming society for refugees;
- this was particularly apparent amongst young people as just a quarter of 16 year olds felt this way;
- it found that almost two-thirds of respondents believed Northern Ireland had a duty to provide protection to refugees escaping persecution in their own country;
- support was strongest for those living in religiously-mixed areas and those living in urban areas;
- more than half agreed that people from Syria should be allowed to come to Northern Ireland;
- young people who socialised with those from minority ethnic backgrounds showed the highest level of support;
- the report also found that attitudes to immigrants were strongly associated with thinking that we have a duty to protect refugees; and
- most respondents who believed immigration should be increased felt this obligation, while less than a third who favoured a decrease in immigration agreed.

Dr. Michael advised that the findings had revealed that people in Northern Ireland were largely hospitable to refugees, despite ongoing concerns about racism and discrimination. This was an important finding in the context of increasing numbers of refugees globally and indications of emerging anti-refugee politics in the rest of the world.

During discussion, Dr. Michael highlighted that it was important to understand the isolated nature of hostility and the need to work to ensure that it would not over shadow the wider welcome. She stated that the broad support across a range of age groups, political affiliations and national identities was encouraging, even if a few small groups were distinctly unsupportive.

Dr. Michael concluded the presentation by thanking the Shared City Partnership for permitting her to provide it with an update in respect of the findings.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for her informative presentation and she left the meeting.

Several of the Members welcomed the positive nature of many of the findings but noted that in many cases there was an absence of capacity and support for new refugee families arriving in Northern Ireland, therefore, there was a need not to be complacent and to try, where possible, to support positive relations between refugee families and other communities in Belfast.

The Good Relations Manager provided an overview of ongoing initiatives that Belfast City Council was involved with currently, many of which were directly funded from the District Council Good Relations and Peace IV Programmes. She highlighted that there was similarities in the research that had been conducted in relation to the experiences of people from the Muslim community in Belfast which was an agenda item for discussion later in the meeting.

Following discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the survey results would be circulated, via e-mail, to all Elected Members.

Update on Peace IV

The Partnership considered the following 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:

- **agree to the rescope of BPR5 Supporting Communities – Roma element**
- **confirm the areas selected for the BPR3 Transform for Change project on the basis of the Belfast Interface Project and agree the selection criteria for the remaining areas.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Implementation and delivery of the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan is progressing as outlined in Appendix I.

Revised Letters of Offers for all three themes were received from SEUPB on 25 February 2019, as attached. Members previously agreed to accept the additional funding. The detail in the LoOs is currently being reviewed by PEACE IV Secretariat and Legal and any issues will be highlighted to members.

Children and Young People (CYP)

Equipment for the CYP1 TechConnects has been purchased by Council, and as per the Letter of Offer Condition, the devices have been added to the Council’s Asset Register. The equipment is now out on loan to the delivery agent.

The Young Advocates cohort are launching their first campaign, focusing on crime and its impact on young people in the Duncairn Centre on 7 March 2019.

Building Positive Relations (BPR)

Following pre-market engagement sessions, the tender opportunities for the Traveller project opened on 1 March 2019.

Following nil submissions to tender opportunities, SCP members agreed for officers to re-scope BPR5 Supporting Communities project - Roma element. Following pre market engagement and discussion with TEO, it is proposed that participant numbers for the capacity building and mediation training is reduced from 200 to 85 participants, with increased contact from 26 to 45 hours. TEO has indicated support for the project elements and the re-scope. SEUPB is currently reviewing the proposed content of the rescope. As such, we would seek member's approval for the rescoped level of activity as outlined above.

To date mobilisation of BPR3 Transform for Change leadership project has included briefings to Council Area Working Groups and a pre-market engagement session with prospective delivery agents.

The project targets 15 community cluster areas from across the city. Target areas for the delivery of the project were identified through the Belfast Interface Project cluster / locations, as follows:

1. Suffolk – Lenadoon
2. Upper Springfield Road
3. Crumlin Road – Ardoyne – Glenbryn
4. Falls - Shankill
5. Ligoniel
6. Limestone Road-Alexandra Park
7. Lower Oldpark-Manor Street
8. The Village-Westlink
9. Whitewell Road-Longlands
10. Inner Ring (Millfield, Peters Hill & Carrick Hill).
11. Short Strand-Inner East
12. Duncairn Gardens
13. Lower Ormeau

The proposed criteria for selection of the remaining community clusters is proposed as follows:

- Areas with significant issues racism, hate crime and hotspot areas (as evidenced by Policing Board & PCSP's statistics; flags; emblems and graffiti);
- High levels of disengagement - communities where service providers meet challenges in the delivery of services at a local level
- Areas at risk/affected by disadvantaged
- Outside of current funding streams such as Urban Villages and Neighbourhood Renewal and where need is identified

- **Commitment to work and engage with other areas on a cross community basis**

Recruitment will involve a significant element will involve inter-community engagement aiming to improve the capacity of disengagement and marginalised communities.

It is requested that the SCP confirm the areas selected for the BPR3 on the basis of the Belfast Interface Project and agree the above criteria for the selection of the remaining areas.

Shared Space and Services (SSS)

Following the community engagement workshop, analysis and programming planning is being developed. Engagement is continuing with key partnerships and groups/organisations, raising awareness and sharing information on the capital project proposals and programming ideas.

As part of the rebid, a Resource Allocation of £72,000 (£6,000 per site) has been agreed under the SSS theme. This allocation will be used to support 36 post-construction community activities, across the inter-connected sites. A protocol detailing the eligibility, criteria and process for the allocation of this funding is being developed and will be presented to members in a further report in due course.

Financial and Resource Implications

SEUPB provided approval on 26 February 2019 to submit claim periods 16 and 17, 1st August 2018 – 31st January 2019, The submission of the Period 16 claim, totalling £97,958.86 on eMS is currently ongoing. The claim total for period 17 is being finalised.

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 Programme Manager advised the Members of the following two events scheduled to take place during March:

- **Belfast Peace IV Additional Funding Launch, at the Girdwood Community Hub, on Friday, 22nd March from 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.; and**
- **Active Communities Network launch of ‘Playing our Part in the City’ event, at the Olympia Leisure centre, on Thursday, 21st March from 4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.**

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

- **authorise the rescope of BPR5 Supporting Communities – Roma element; and**
- **agree the areas selected for the BPR3 Transform for Change project on the basis of the Belfast Interface Project and approve the selection criteria for the remaining areas.**

Islamophobia Research

The Partnership was reminded that it had previously approved the commissioning of research on the experiences of people from the Muslim community in Belfast. She advised that, following a quotation exercise, the Institute for Conflict Research had subsequently been commissioned to carry out the research and she proceeded to provide an overview of its finding and recommendations, as follows:

- Belfast City Council to consider the benefits of developing a programme to build the confidence and capacity of 'bystanders' to respond to hate crimes by reviewing similar programmes, such as Nottingham's #StandByMe;
- as there was little published data on the number of hate crimes against people from a Muslim background it was recommended that the PSNI could publish a broader sub-categorisation of recorded hate crimes, including annual figures for sub-groups and nationalities who were victims of racist and religiously motivated hate incidents and crimes;
- Belfast City Council could engage with Belfast Islamic Centre and the PSNI to explore ways to extend its working relationship to other areas of Belfast. This should aim to encourage victims of hate crime to report incidents to the police and to increase cultural competencies and awareness of Muslim culture and traditions among police officers;
- the PSNI could consider re-running its Islamic Awareness Course for police officers on the back of the growing population of people from a Muslim background in Belfast;
- Belfast City Council to take a lead in monitoring and reporting online hate abuse;
- Belfast City Council to consider ways it could encourage and support relationship building and cultural awareness programmes and activities involving local community organisations and groups representing the Muslim community as part of a process of reducing hate crimes and hate speech;
- Belfast City Council could convene a small working group to bring together people working on issues of hate crime in the City to review existing hate crime campaigns and initiatives and explore how such work might be developed and extended in the future;
- Belfast City Council to review work its work on the DiverseCity project to ensure it was better tailored to the varied demography of the city.
- Belfast City Council to discuss with organisations within the Muslim community and explore how it might support and widen participation in the Eid celebrations;
- the report noted that Belfast City Council had taken many steps to show leadership and such activity needed to be sustained and expanded through continued participation in public events or by providing Civic Leadership through issuing media statements in response to acts of prejudice and bias;
- the report noted that Belfast City Councils Shared City Partnership was one established framework that could consider and promote more effective responses to hate crime against individuals of Muslim background in the City. As a partnership of the six main political parties, alongside statutory, voluntary, business, trade-union and faith stakeholders it feed into the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,

and ultimately to the monthly meeting of the full Council. It thus provided a vehicle for achieving a co-ordinated response to the challenges identified in the research;

- it noted that sport provided another potentially inclusive space for socialising. More could be done by Northern Ireland's sporting bodies to engage with and offer opportunities to children and young people of Muslim background to take part through, for example, providing free equipment or waiving club membership fees.
- Belfast City Council could expand its participation within European wide networks, such as the Intercultural Cities network. This would be a further statement of its commitment and would expose it to the best practices in the management of cultural diversity which had evolved across Europe in the last decade.

Several of the Members welcomed the report and its level of detail regarding the research findings and stressed the importance of these being further explored and progressed.

The Good Relations Manager provided a brief overview of comments that had been received from Ms. A. M. White, who unfortunately had been unavailable to attend the meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed that officers would submit a report to a future meeting of the Partnership regarding potential programmes which would support the research findings. It was further recommended that, in relation to the recommendation regarding Civic Leadership, a subgroup comprising of Elected Members, Independent Members of the Partnership, the Lord Mayor, the Council's Corporate Communications and a representative from the Executive Office would be established to consider how this aspect could be strengthened.

Motion - Anti-Semitism

The Partnership considered a report which detailed a draft proposed programme which would ensure that the Members had an opportunity to explore the definition of anti-Semitism and to recognise the practical implications for the role of the Council within the discussion.

The Members considered the proposed programme, along with the definition in respect of anti-Semitism that had been referenced in the original motion and which was published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and used by the UK Government, Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly.

During discussion, once again, it became apparent that the Members felt that this matter should not be considered in isolation and expressed concern at being asked to specifically form an opinion in relation to one minority group.

It was agreed that the matter would be deferred to enable officers to obtain advice from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland as to whether it would be appropriate for the Council to specifically adopt a definition in respect of one particular group and not other groups living in Northern Ireland.

Update on Review of Shared City Partnership

The Good Relations Manager advised that, following the review of the Shared City Partnership last year, its membership had undergone significant change and she referred to its current composition.

The Partnership was asked to note that Mr. Mark Baker's role within the Education Directorate had changed in that he was no longer responsible for shared education and, as a result, Mr. John Unsworth, Assistant Director, had been nominated as the Education Authority's new representative.

The officer advised that a new nomination had been sought from the PSNI following Superintendent Murdie's move to a new role within the organisation, however, a replacement nominee had, as yet, not been received.

She further advised that, in addition, whilst Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce had accepted a nomination to sit on the Partnership, the representative had never attended any Partnership meetings to date.

A Member advised that a new Chairperson had recently been appointed to the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce and she undertook to forward the details to the Good Relations Manager.

In respect of the Faith Sector, the officer reminded the Members that the current composition included two representatives from the faith sector, one which had been filled by the Interfaith Forum. It had been agreed that, in relation to the second representative, one representative from the faith sector would be decided on a rotational basis by the four main Churches.

The officer advised that, whilst discussions had been held with some of the relevant church leaders, given the timeframe, permission was being sought from the Partnership for officers to forward correspondence to each of the four main church leaders in an attempt to try and progress the nomination process.

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

- a letter be sent to the PSNI from the Chairperson of the Shared City outlining the importance of its representation on the Partnership and seeking a nominee to fill the current vacancy;
- correspondence be sent to Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce to establish if it was still wishing for representation on the Partnership and, if so, seeking a nomination; and
- letters be sent to each of the four main church leaders relating to Belfast requesting confirmation that each was content with the arrangement, as previously agreed by the Council, and seeking views on the sequence in which each church should be represented. The leaders would be advised that nominees should be aware of and involved in good relations work which would be relatable to Belfast. This approach would enable the four-year cycle to commence in June to be aligned with the beginning of the new four-year term for Council.

Good Relations Audit

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 provide members of the Shared City Partnership with information in relation to the audit of Good Relations issues in Belfast 2019 and to seek feedback on any key issues for consideration in this piece of work.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that Officers commence work on the good relations audit 2019 using the approach outlined in the report and;

To note that initial work will commence prior to receiving a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office in respect of the District Council Good Relations Programme 19/20 to allow for timescales to be met developing estimates for next year's plans.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

T:BUC District Council Good Relations Programme

Belfast City Council submits a Good Relations Action plan to the Executive Office (TEO) on an annual basis to secure funding for good relations activity through the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP). This plan must be needs based and there is a requirement on council to carry out an audit of good relations need in Belfast every three years.

- 3.2 Members will be aware that Council has been asked to submit a 3-year plan covering the financial years from 19/20 to 21/22 under the District Council Good Relations Programme. As the last audit was taken in 2016, to keep within our terms and conditions, an allocation towards an audit was included within the plan for Year 1. Council had then submitted a Plan for Years 2 and 3 subject to these audit findings.
- 3.3 It is worth noting that the information gathered through this exercise is also useful to inform other policy and practice within Belfast City Council and other organisations working in the city.
- 3.4 The findings of the audit will be used to further develop the DCGRP Action plans 20/21 and 21/22. A draft action plan will be developed by January 2020 and presented to the Shared City Partnership. This timeline is in keeping with customary TEO submission deadlines.
- 3.5 Members will be aware that SJ Cartmin was appointed to carry out the audit following a quotation exercise in 2016. An executive summary of those audit findings are attached at Appendix 1 for member's information.
- 3.6 The last audit took place in the context of the emerging Belfast Agenda and sought to identify ways in which the Programme could be developed and aligned to the T:BUC themes as the priorities within the Belfast Agenda. It also sought to provide recommendations regarding any amendment to the Programme which would assist to best meet good relations outcomes.
- 3.7 Members will also be aware that since the last audit was produced, an extensive report on monitoring outcomes has been produced which has demonstrated the impact of the Programme and further

measures have been put in place to assist groups to demonstrate the same.

- 3.8 A draft Good Relations Strategy has recently been developed and is currently out for consultation. It further reinforces the strategic nature of good relations and its links to not only the Belfast Agenda but also to the Local Development Plan and Resilience Strategy.
- 3.9 In the meantime, the area-working model has been developed within the City and Neighbourhood Services Department. While change is still ongoing, 4 new Area Managers have been appointed for the North, South, East and West of the City. In addition, Boards such as the Living Here Board have recently been established to explore the practical detail of how community planning can be used to its best advantage to add value to work within the City.
- 3.10 Therefore, it would make sense that while the strategic alignment element of the audit could be refreshed, this audit should concentrate on the good relations needs across Belfast broken down through the lens of area working i.e. North, South, East and West. This would mean that our interventions could be planned meaningfully over these areas taking into account, funding and projects already in place. It would also help to contribute to place shaping and place making at a local level and identify priorities.
- 3.11 It would provide robust statistical and analytical information regarding good relations issues in relation to each of the 4 areas, thus giving a sound basis for evidence of need.
- 3.12 The audit would also involve a number of mechanisms to seek views and to engage in the most effective way, particularly those involved in on the ground delivery and with the area working groups to allow for agreed interventions.
- 3.13 It would also be cognisant of thematic issues which are not particular to one area and therefore, we would ensure these would also be reflected in the audit. Members will be aware that one of the questions in the current public consultation asks what are the main issues which could contribute towards good community and race relations within Belfast and we would expect that the findings would be used to supplement this aspect of the audit, along with appropriate focussed consultation.

Financial & Resource Implications

Members are advised that an application has been made in respect of the District Council Good Relations Programme for 19/20 which is 75% funded by the Executive Office (TEO) and 25% funded by Belfast City Council. Members are advised that Officers may commence initial work while waiting on a Letter of Offer from TEO to ensure timescales can be met for developing estimates for next years plans.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The audit of good relations aims to identify key issues that will support the development of good relations and will have a positive impact on good relations.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2019

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To seek feedback on the delivery of a 2019 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and the Review Panel’s recommendation in respect of the 2018 programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R) Committee that they approve the SCP’s proposed model for a 2019 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and the Review Panel’s recommendation in respect of the 2018 programme.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 2019 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme

Council approved a draft District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) Action Plan in February 2019. This included a Cultural Expression Programme under which engagement on the issue of bonfires could be delivered.

3.2 Officers are seeking feedback on the terms of delivery for the 2019 Bonfire and Cultural Expression programme. The following model, which is in line with the 2018 model agreed by council, is proposed:

3.3 Council will deliver a Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme which seeks to promote positive cultural expression through better bonfire management and cultural celebrations.

Constituted groups can access funding for community events and activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity. The programme will be open to groups generally. Groups who do not have traditional bonfires or beacons

will be eligible to be part of the 2019 programme, where their event replaces a bonfire.

Those who are awarded funding will agree to take practical steps to ensure that sites which are linked to funded events will be managed in accordance with the following criteria:

1. No collection of materials before 1 June 2019.
2. Tyres or other hazardous materials should not be collected or burnt on the bonfire
3. Groups should not display paramilitary trappings flags or symbols on bonfires or at any funded activities.
4. Bonfires should be sited in a clear unenclosed space at a safe distance from buildings and overhead cables and should conform to a 1:5 ratio. Safety risks should be assessed and managed, and appropriate advice and guidance sought from the NIFRS and other relevant agencies.
5. Groups should not burn or display any items such as flags, emblems or election posters which are likely to cause offense or could be considered a hate crime.
6. Groups must comply with council health and safety and events management guidance, as well as meeting relevant licensing and insurance requirements.

3.4 Council will provide the following resource through the programme:

- 14 bonfire beacons which will be allocated on agreed criteria (or more if requested subject to availability/deliverability)
- Up to £1,750 for community events and activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity (£500 will be ringfenced for engagement activity following July events)

3.5 Those applications which score highest in relation to the agreed criteria will be awarded funding. This is in line with the approach in other grant programmes.

3.6 An incentivized approach for delivery of the programme should be adopted in line with the 2017 and 2018 models. This means that groups can access an initial £1,250 with a second award of £500 available following July activities for those groups who met the framework outlined above. This additional £500 will be available for activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity.

3.7 As in 2017 and 2018, the future participation of groups who do not meet the aims of the programme will be considered by a review panel. It is proposed that the panel composition remains the same as in previous years; that is the Chair and Vice Chair of the Shared City Partnership, an independent member of the Shared City Partnership (in previous years NIHE) and an independent member to verify a fair and equitable approach. Members are asked to agree

to retain the independent assessor who participated in 2017 and 2018.

- 3.8 Due to the fact that SCP will not meet until June 2019, officers would like to finalise timescales to allow for the timely administration of the programme. The following dates are proposed:

Opening date	Monday 1 April
Information sessions	w/c 1 April
Closing date	Friday 19 April (Good Friday)
Assessment	29 April – 3 May
Letters of Offer issued	by Friday 17 May 2019

Members should note that the closing date will be strictly applied and the programme will operate as other grant aid programmes.

- 3.9 In light of the local government elections, members are asked to recommend that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services be granted delegated authority to approve funding awards. The Director has approved awards to the programme through delegated authority in the previous three years. A full list of successful applicants will be brought to the June meeting of the Shared City Partnership.
- 3.10 Members may wish to note that 70% (£875) of the £1,250 award will be paid initially to groups. This will be followed by the subsequent payment based on provision of appropriate receipts and delivering activity in line with the framework.
- 3.11 Members should note that there are challenges in monitoring how participants have complied with the guidelines. For health and safety reasons, monitoring cannot be carried out during the lighting of the bonfires themselves. Members are asked to approve that, as in previous years, Council should seek to appoint an independent contractor to review sites. In 2018, officers sought to ensure that 2 staff from the appointed company carry out this work but the company advised that only one staff member was available. As members will appreciate this is very sensitive work and there are a limited number of companies willing to carry it out.
- 3.12 2018 Review Panel

An independent consultant was appointed to visit all participating sites on the 2018 Bonfire and Cultural Expression programme up to 8pm on 11 July. The findings of this report were presented to the

Shared City Partnership in August 2018. The report identified the following:

- **the majority of sites on the programme were well maintained and met the aims of the framework**
- **the majority of sites on the programme were not fully constructed by 10 July**
- **prior to 8.30pm on 11 July no sites on the programme had any paramilitary displays**
- **prior to 8.30pm on 11 July no sites had tyres on the bonfire**
- **prior to 8.30pm on 11 July only one site, had items such as flags, emblems and election posters on the bonfire.**

3.13 The Review Panel met with the group on 28 February 2019. Following consideration of the monitoring report and the previous engagement of the group on the programme the panel have agreed the following recommendations in respect of three considerations:

- 1. This group should receive the final 30% of the first stage payment for activity already undertaken subject to receipt of all relevant documentation.**
- 2. This group should not be able to access the additional funding available for cultural activity for groups who met the aims of the programme.**
- 3. This group should be eligible to take part in a 2019 programme.**

Members are asked to recommend the panel's findings to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (SP&R).

3.14 Finance and Resource Implications

Officers are liaising with a range of partners to secure finances for this programme. All activities outlined in this report will be delivered in line with available resources.

3.15 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 delivered through the 19/20 District Council Good Relations Programme which is currently being equality screened."

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

- **it adopt the Shared City Partnership's proposed model for a 2019 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and the Review Panel's recommendation in respect of the 2018 programme;**

- that consideration be given to adopting a protocol in relation to the appointment of the individual assessor on the review panel;
- officers submit an update in respect of the Council's current governance arrangements around the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme to a future meeting; and
- that officers engage in discussions with the Council's Corporate Communications Section, with a view to formulating a communications plan around the positive outcomes of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

Update on Opportunities for Interface Funding 2019/20

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Good Relations Unit had ring-fenced £40,000 from the District Council Good Relations Action Plan for the Interface Expression of Interest exercise in 2019/20. She advised that the exercise would be delivered using the same process used in 2018/19, with invitations to apply for funding being extended across a three-year period, in line with the new guidelines from the Executive Office (TEO).

The officer explained that the aim of the funding would be to invite submissions from interface communities to develop long-term projects and annual events that would provide opportunities for engagement across the interface.

Following a query as to whether the Council had any ability to influence policy in respect of barrier removal, the Good Relations Manager advised that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services currently represented the Council on the Department of Justice led Interface Programme Board which provided advice at a strategic level, with particular focus on addressing social, community, physical and economic regeneration in interface areas.

A number of the Members noted that community engagement was central to the delivery of barrier removal. The physical barrier was itself a manifestation of the lack of communication between two communities and it was vitally important that good relations community engagement across the interface was promoted which would help to achieve maximum impact and ultimately assist with the long term barrier removal aim.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that that the Interfaces Funding 2019/20 be awarded using the delegated authority of the Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services.

Update on GR Small Grants Tranche 1/Summer Intervention Good Relations Grant Aid 2018/19 Tranche 1

The Partnership was reminded that the Good Relations Small Grant Fund was funded jointly by the Executive Office (TEO) (75%) and the Council (25%), through the District Council Good Relations Programme. The Summer Intervention Fund was 100% funded by TEO and the Good Relations Unit administered the fund on its behalf.

The Good Relations Manager reported that the first call for applications for funding under the 2019/2020 Fund, to undertake activities between April and September, 2019, had closed on 11th January. She explained that, by that date, the Good Relations Small Grant Fund had received forty-two applications, requesting in total £201,370. This represented a decrease on the 2018/19 figures. She advised that Feedback from applicants had highlighted that the following factors might explain the reduction in applications:

- uncertainty of core staff funding which might impact on the capacity to make project applications;
- the ability to access funds from larger programmes such as TEO Central Good Relations Fund, Camps Programme and/or Urban Villages; and
- organisations focusing on other areas of programming.

The Summer Intervention Fund had received 27 applications totalling £109,016. This represented a small increase on last year when 24 applications, requesting a total of approximately £106,744, had been received.

The Partnership was reminded that the Council had previously approved the Good Relations Action Plan which had requested total funding of £734,500. which included £220,400 towards grant aid costs. As the Summer Intervention Fund was 100% funded by TEO, it would issue a letter of offer to cover the awards made by Belfast City Council following the scoring process.

The Partnership was advised that, as the total available budget for projects during 2019/20 available for distribution across the two tranches was £220,400, it was recommended that Tranche 1 grants to the value of £111,000 be awarded. It was further recommended that the Summer Intervention allocation would not exceed £85,000.

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that, to date, the letters of offer from TEO had not been received, therefore, if funding for grants under Tranche 1 and the Summer Intervention Fund were awarded in advance of a Letter of Offer being received from TEO the funding would be awarded 'at risk'.

The Officer reminded the Partnership that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 17th February 2017, had adopted a recommendation by the Partnership that, in line with the findings contained with an independent audit of the Council's Good Relations function, authority should be delegated to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to approve grants administered by the Good Relations Unit.

Accordingly, the Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the following overall indicative amounts for Tranche 1 of the Good Relations Small Grants Programme and the Summer Intervention Programme which would be subject to the delegated authority of the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and further clarification from TEO regarding the level of funding being awarded for 2019/20 for Summer Intervention Funding:

- £111,000 to support 29 organisations to deliver Good Relations projects from April – September 2019 through Good Relations Small Grants Funding; and
- £77,066 to support 21 organisations to deliver diversionary projects from June – August 2019 through Summer Intervention Funding.

Update on Christmas Goodwill Events 2018

The Partnership was asked to note that, as previously agreed, funding of £3,000 had been allocated to this programme of works and she reported that the following groups had received funding:

- Duncairn Community Partnership – cross-community Christmas event held on 8th December, in McCrory Hall, Duncairn Gardens;
- Shankill Women's Centre – cross-community Christmas Market, including children's play area at Lanark Way, held on 1st December;

- Forthspring Inter Community Group –2 shared Christmas events during the week commencing December 17th, for children, young people and adult community members resident on both sides of our local interface wall that separates the Shankill/Woodvale and Clonard/Springfield communities;
- Greater Whitewell Community Surgery – cross-community ‘Santa’s Adventure Trail’ with 26 youth participates from the Whitewell area,
- North Belfast Interface Network - cross-community Christmas Event held on 15th December in the Ambulance Station, Crumlin Road; and
- Springfield Star – A cross-community youth football tournament which attracted 6 youth teams.

A Member stated that she felt it would be useful if a regional breakdown of the funding awarded through the various Council streams was available as this would help to provide an overall picture of the financial resources allocated to each Council area.

The Good Relations Manager advised that the adoption of the new area working model would help to focus on good relations needs across the City. This approach would ensure that interventions would be planned meaningfully over these areas, taking into account the funding already in place and new opportunities available. It would also help to contribute to place shaping and place making at a local level and to identify priorities.

Noted.

Upcoming Events 2019

The Good Relations Manager advised the Members that a visit to the City Cemetery had been organised on Thursday, 11th April from 11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. as part of the District Council Good Relation’s Programme, delivered through the DiverseCity Programme.

Noted.

Chairperson