

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre
Tuesday, 30th May, 2017

Political Members	Independent Members
Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair) Councillor Sonia Copeland Councillor Aileen Graham Councillor Deirdre Hargey Councillor Mairead O'Donnell	Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair) Michelle Bryans David Geddis Lisa McMaster
Designated Organisations	
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE Suzanne Fleming, NIFRS	Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Carole Howard Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT Dermot Magorrian, YJA

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Vice-Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. He also welcomed Mr Brice Dixon, Independent Member of the Northern Ireland policing Board and Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer.

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. No declarations of interest were declared at the outset of the Meeting.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 26th April, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Lisa McMaster
Seconded: Councillor Sonia Copeland
- ii. In relation to actions from previous DPCSP Meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that;
 - A letter had been sent to the Permanent Secretary of the Education Authority in the absence of a Minister,
 - A presentation on the Bonfire Programme was scheduled next on the agenda,
 - Dates of PACT meetings had been circulated via email and a handout was circulated to all Members, as was an advertising poster,

- A meeting of the PACT Sub-Group would be scheduled in the coming weeks,
 - Political Members had been advised that the recycling site on Cregagh Road was not due to close.
- iii. Members asked that the day on which PACT meetings are held were rotated to ensure maximum attendance as recently the date had conflicted with an Alpha Programme meeting.

4. **Bonfire Programme Presentation**

(Margaret Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Margaret introduced the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and commented on the review of the 2016 programme which highlighted significant reductions in anti-social behaviour and fly tipping whilst highlighting areas where improvements were required.
- ii. Margaret highlighted the Shared City Partnership's wish to promote cultural expression and that it was an important theme of the 2017 Programme to support communities in the positive celebration of cultural heritage through better bonfire management on the 11th July
- iii. Key elements of the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme include:
- A year long cultural activity programme
 - For it to be a resource for cultural networks
 - To provide incentives for good bonfire management rather than penalties
 - To provide support for new groups
 - To recognise Best Practise
 - To deliver independent monitoring, by way of review panel headed by Rev. Bill Shaw with 3 Shared City Partnership representatives to evaluate sites for additional funding
- iv. Margaret explained aspects of the framework including:
- Collections would commence from the 1st June
 - The careful consideration of the size of the structures being erected
 - Site safety
 - No flag burning
- v. Margaret then informed the Members of the financial breakdown included in the framework:
- Up to £1,750 would be available per group.
 - £1,250 would be available for Community Events between 8-13th July
 - £500 would be available for Cultural Awareness Events from August 2017 and March 2018
- vi. Margaret explained that a Quotation was out for Independent Evaluators for applications and that there were 10 Beacons available to Bonfire Groups in 2017 and that in 2016, 5 out of the 10 available were given to Bonfires in East Belfast.
- vii. In relation to East Belfast, Margaret informed the Members that in 2017, 16 out of 32 applications had been from the East and that generally she was pleased to report on a positive reaction from groups in East Belfast.

- viii. Members asked the Senior Good Relations Officer to circulate the date of the next East Belfast Cultural Network via the Safer City Coordinator.
- ix. Members suggested that the fact that 50% of beacon sites and half of the applications to the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme came from East Belfast was to be commended and opportunities to celebrate this success should be explored.

5. Updates from Statutory Partners

PSNI

- i. Chief Inspector David Moore reported to Members that incidents of ASB are currently accounting for 30% of their workload, however Operation Tanerg appeared to be paying dividends around ASB hotspots.
- ii. A Member stated that they had attended a practitioners meeting and that there had been some good conversations.
- iii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator reported that the ASB Officer for East Belfast was doing good work and making some good community connections.
- iv. A Member commented that they sensed confidence coming back into the area due to the increased visibility of Police and thanked Chief Inspector Moore for the move back towards Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

NIHE

- i. Gary Ballantyne advised that he had returned to work in East Belfast and provided an overview of some anti-social behaviour related issues that had come to his attention.
- ii. He advised that the points system used for allocating housing was to be reviewed but had stalled due to issues at Stormont. He also noted that given the time needed to gather evidence against tenants, residents sometimes took matters in to their own hands, changing victims to perpetrators.
- iii. A Member asked Gary if the NIHE were able to refuse housing based on repeated problems. He confirmed that although the instances were few and far between, it was possible for an individual to become ineligible for re-housing following a Court case.

6. East Belfast DPCSP 2016/2017 Action Plan Progress Report

- i. Members were provided with a final copy of the 2016/2017 East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan. The Safer City Co-Ordinator highlighted that the majority of the projects within the report were at green (as per traffic light system) with a few at amber where project evaluations were still outstanding.
- ii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator commented on a small underspend of £15,00k due mainly to projects not being fully delivered as initially planned.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

7. 2017/2018 Action Planning

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator advised Members that a 10% reduction in the 2016/2017 budget was likely resulting in a revised value of £126,000 compared to the £140,000 for 2016/17.
- ii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator confirmed that the three strategic objectives remained unchanged and that an initial budget of £37,800 had been provided to each of the DPCSPs:
 - To form, and successfully deliver the functions of, the PCSP
 - To improve community safety by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - To improve community confidence in policing
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

8. 2017/2018 Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator provided Members will a copy of the 2017/2018 Action Plan and outlined how the East Belfast specific Action Plan linked into the overall objectives laid out by the PCSP.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

9. Audit and Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator highlighted to Members the processes in place regarding audit and governance arrangements for the PCSP and DPCSPs.
- ii. He then stipulated the Council's procurement guidelines:
 - Expenditure of £2,999 or less – there is no requirement for formal quotations, however, it is recommended that Officers test the market to ensure they are obtaining value for money.
 - Expenditure from £3,000-£7,999 – three written quotations required.
 - Expenditure from £8,000-£29,999 – four written quotations required.
 - Expenditure of £30,000 and above – locally advertised tender administered centrally by Belfast City Council's Procurement Unit.
- iii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator added that for spend under the £2,999 threshold, Officers were still required to test the market to ensure value for money and that currently there were no tenders expected.
- iv. The Members were then informed as to the use of 'Single Tender Actions' (STA) as a means of purchasing when the requirement can only be satisfied by a single supplier. The Safer City Co-Ordinator explained to Members how a procurement exercise can evolve into an STA if the partnership receives no submissions to quotation exercises.
- v. Members noted the contents of the report.

10. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Funding Model

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator outlined to Members the recommendations approved by the Belfast PCSP, namely:
 - That the Belfast PCSP ring-fences £220,149 of its budget to the PCSP for strategic projects and towards the development of a number of Citywide projects/initiatives which have a local focus.
 - That the Belfast PCSP allocates its remaining £560,000 of its total budget across the 4 DPCSPs on a proportional basis based on a similar funding model used by the Joint Committee for the PCSPs. This model provides a (30%) basic allocation equally to all DCSPs and then additional allocations based on (45%) population and (25%) deprivation.
 - The PCSP will authorise the release of the DPCSP funding in staged payments upon written request at its monthly meetings. Release of any funding will be subject to Officers assurances that any projects will have gone through the normal PCSP governance processes and will have been signed off by Senior Management for implementation.
 - PCSP gives delegated authority up to a maximum of £1,000 to the Safer City Assistant/Manager, PCSP Chair and Vice Chair and this spend is reported retrospectively at the next PCSP meeting.
- ii. A Member questioned how Outcome Based Accountability would impact upon community groups.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that outcomes would be determined for each project in advance and transferred into the monitoring and evaluation documentation for groups to report against as was currently the case.
- iv. Members noted the contents of the report.

11. Support for PACT Meetings

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator reminded Members that the DPCSP financially supported PACT meetings during 2016/2017 and suggested that this continue during 2017/2018. He noted that the meetings gave the public the opportunity to raise matters of concern with a panel of statutory agencies and helped to build confidence in the organisations involved.
- ii. Members were asked to approve approximately £2,000 - £1,200 in room hire costs and £800 for refreshments - for the Titanic, Orminston and Lisnasharragh PACTs.
- iii. This was approved by Members.
Proposed: Councillor Sonia Copeland
Seconded: Michelle Bryans

12. Anti-Social Behaviour Provision Project Proposal

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined an Anti-Social Behaviour Project proposal that specifically addressed Strategic Objective 2 as detailed in the Action Plan.
- ii. The Members heard how the project would deliver 30 youth interventions, 6 workshops, the provision of 4 diversionary activities (during times of increased tensions) and the delivery of 4 public events.

- iii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator explained how the assessments of the events would be outcome based and that the likelihood would be that multiple groups would be successful in submitting quotes rather than one single supplier.
- iv. The Members were asked to note a change in item 3.1 of the report, from £30,000 to £25,000 and to approve issuing a quotation exercise based on the budget and requirements previously outlined.
- v. Members approved the granting of £25,000 as requested.
Proposed: David Geddis
Seconded: Councillor Deirdre Hargey

13. Drugs and Alcohol Project

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator outlined to Members that as part of the 2017/18 Action Plan the East Belfast DPCSP had agreed to again go out to quotation in order to commission work that will have a positive effect on addressing drug and alcohol issues. The successful group will be required to deliver a series of diversionary and intervention projects / pieces of work aimed at both complimenting existing drug and alcohol services in East Belfast as well as adding value to the ongoing work of the East Belfast DPCSP and linking in to the work of the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholders Forum
- ii. The Members heard the specifications of the quotation and were informed that the invitation to quote would be sent to a targeted number of groups which it was hoped would operate under the umbrella of the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholders Forum.
- iii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator requested approval of £15,000 for the delivery of the project.
- iv. Members approved commencing a quotation exercise with a budget of £15,000.
Proposed: Lisa McMaster
Seconded: Councillor Sonia Copeland

14. Unwanted August Bonfires Programme

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator reminded Members of the presentation delivered by Margaret Higgins from the Good Relations Unit and continued to explain that the PCSP had agreed to fund £10,500 to provide support for groups who deliver diversionary activities in relation to unwanted bonfires.
- ii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator explained that groups would be funded £1,000 each and were match funded £500 by their respective DPCSP. As only one group from East Belfast had availed of this fund, the Safer City Co-Ordinator requested approval for £500 to be released to this group.
- iii. The Members approved the grant of £500.
Proposed: Councillor Aileen Graham
Seconded: David Geddis

15. Safer Campaign

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked Members to agree to receive a presentation at a future meeting from Dr John Kyle on behalf of the Safer Campaign in support for those impacted by suicide.
- ii. Members agreed to receive the presentation.

16. Emerging Issues/Open Floor Discussion

PSNI Officer Numbers and Budget

- i. A Member expressed concern at reports of the loss of 280 Police Officers over the next year and asked if Chief Inspector Moore could shed any light on the issue.
- ii. Chief Inspector Moore told Members that he had no specific update on this news but that he would be surprised if this impacted East Belfast.
- iii. Mr Brice Dixon, Independent Member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, stated that it was good to see how the Partnership worked and how impressed he was by the diversity of discussion and quality of papers produced. He added that his belief regarding the 3% cut in policing was to allow the PSNI to get away from doing work that they should not be doing and that could and should be addressed by other bodies (e.g. mental health issues).
- iv. A Member enquired as to whether Restorative Justice practices were being utilised by the PSNI.
- v. Chief Inspector Moore stated that the PSNI rely heavily on Restorative Justice in terms of early interventions and graduated responses to incidents.
- vi. A Member enquired if there was a separate budget for terrorism in the light of current events and expressed concern that it would stretch the existing budget.
- vii. Chief Inspector Moore explained to Members that there is a separate budget set aside to combat terror threats and that the budget had been increased following the Manchester attack.

Street Pastors

- viii. A Member commented on the increased activity of Street Pastors in the East and suggested that a presentation by them to the Partnership would be useful.
- ix. Members agreed that a presentation by Street Pastors would be welcome at the next meeting.

17. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the DPCSP would be on Wednesday, 28th June.

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Actions

Action	Date Due	By Whom
A meeting of the PACT sub-group is to be arranged in order to analyse the PACT Report and to develop an Action Plan using the recommendations provided.	9 th June	Safer City Coordinator
The date of the next East Belfast Cultural Network meeting is to be circulated to Members.	2 nd June	Partnership Support Officer
A presentation on the Safer Campaign is to be scheduled for the next meeting.	28 th June	Safer City Coordinator
The Street Pastors are to be asked to present to Members at the next meeting of the DPCSP.	28 th June	Safer City Coordinator