

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Good Relations Strategy 2014-2017

12th May 2015

For Decision

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Transition and Transformation Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Julie Welsh – Community Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£119,103

The Purpose of this report is to recommend adoption of the Good Relations Strategy 2014-17, Action Plan and Council's contribution to the function.

The strategy and first year action plan (14-15) had previously been agreed by the four legacy Councils with the understanding that this strategy would be presented to the new Council for consideration.

The Committee will receive a presentation from Limavady's Good Relations Officer, on behalf of the Good Relations team.

A detailed breakdown of the background/context, existing provision and achievements, proposed deliverables, key performance indicators, outcomes and budgets, are contained within the body of the report. A copy of the Good Relations Strategy and action plan has previously been made available to Members.

Background

The four legacy Councils had an established track record for working collaboratively on Good Relations, and in 2011, developed the first joint Good Relations Strategy for what is now the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. This was the first of its kind among all Councils in Northern Ireland, in an effort to begin preparations for the Review of Public Administration. In order to continue with this collaborative approach and to ensure the promotion of Good Relations in the geographical area covered by the cluster, the Councils developed a second Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2017). This would span the final year of the existing Council structures and provide an interim Strategy and Action Plan for the first two years of the new Causeway Coast & Glens Council.

In October 2014, the Shadow Council participated in a Community Services workshop. The workshop focused on detailing the background, development approach and key priority areas identified when developing the Community Services Framework and associated strategies. The Good Relations Strategy formed an integral element of this framework, alongside Community Development and Policing & Community Safety strategies.

Following this process, staff were tasked with developing detailed costed action plans, based on anticipated budgets for all three service areas.

In February 2015, Councils were asked to submit applications/bids to the Office of the First & Deputy First Minister, in order to avail of funding through their 'Council Good Relations Challenge Programme'. Councils have subsequently been successful in accessing £240,856 of funding, (subject to Council's adoption of the strategy and action plan), with the option of making additional applications to the Department's 'Summer Intervention Programme', currently open for application.

Legislative & Policy Context

There are clear statutory duties for all public bodies under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act in relation to Good Relations and Equality. Section 75 (2) of the Northern Ireland Act states '*a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group*'

'Together Building a United Community' (TBAUC) is the Executive's Strategy, led by OFMDFM which focuses on the delivery of Good Relations, including support to Local Authorities in delivering their statutory duty. It recognizes the value of, and commits to supporting a range of actions including supporting Councils, through a District Councils Good Relations Challenge Programme to resource Good Relations work.

When developing the new programmes within the Good Relations Action Plan, it was essential that each action could be directly linked with one or more of the themes of TBAUC. It has also been necessary to measure performance against the Good Relations Indicators as prescribed by the Department, thus allowing clear measurement across all Councils towards the achievement of the NI Executive Strategy.

Identifying Need – Audit and Planning

The process to identify need was twofold:

1. A comprehensive desk research analysis was undertaken to establish the existing policy landscape and identify opportunities for collaborative working and gaps in existing provision.
2. Direct consultation and engagement process (surveys, individual consultations, workshops, open meetings) with the residents, community and voluntary representatives, private and public sector stakeholders, elected members and Council staff.

In total 747 Consultees representing statutory and community groups, Council officials, Elected Members and local residents engaged during the audit process.

In addition to the audit findings, consideration of the existing and emerging policy landscape at both a local and regional level, helped shape the final strategic Good Relations Action Plan. It was imperative that both the audit findings, existing interventions and policy landscape (both local and regional) were considered together in order to give a full picture and enable the development of new relevant, innovative programmes.

In addition to the audit findings, consideration of the existing and emerging policy landscape at both a local and regional level, helped shape the final strategic Good Relations Action Plan.

When designing the Strategic Action Plan, a five step framework was developed to ensure only the actions which have the potential to achieve the maximum impact were progressed. The five steps included:

- Identification of the most relevant Regional Policy.
- Alignment with one of the identified priority strands.
- Identification of the most relevant issues was to be addressed.
- Identification of the most relevant stakeholders:
- Complementarity with the local policy landscape.

The strategic framework resulted in the development of five thematic programmes, which would commence in 2014 in each of the existing four Council areas, taking into consideration existing interventions and local sensitivities. It was anticipated that these programmes would then continue through 2015, 2016 and 2017, building year on year the confidence, knowledge and skills of the participants to contribute to the development of a culture of respect, understanding and tolerance within the Causeway Coast and Glen’s area.

How will Good Relations deliver? - Key Priorities and Deliverables

The actions contained within Strategy and action plan reflect priority needs identified through the audit and existing areas of responsibility.

Key priorities and associated deliverables are outlined in the table below:

Priority	Activities/deliverables
<p>Our Children and Young People: Improving attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Youth Cohesion Project targeting 20 youth peer leaders delivered • 1 Youth education citizenship resource including DVD developed and delivered to 18 post primary schools and targeting 1000 young people. • 1 youth leadership ‘Let’s Talk’ local democracy project delivered engaging at least 120 young people
<p>Promoting Shared Communities: creating a community where division does not restrict life opportunities; where all areas are open and accessible to everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 positive media programme delivered to positively promote GR with local and social media • Policy development – provision of support to the corporate policy function on GR (S75) issues, in relation to development of new policies. • 1 Mediation and Dialogue programme, including 12 facilitated workshops and up to 30 meetings involving both statutory & community stakeholders to address a range of issues relating to cultural expression, shared space etc across the Borough area. This programme also includes provision to provide mediation on an inter or intra community basis (reactive response) • 1 Early years programme delivered across the Borough, promoting shared communities through cultural diversity, involving 12 playgroups, 24 practitioners and up to 80 families

<p>Safe Communities: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 programme developed and delivered to challenge prejudice and tackle hate crime – 16 workshops, recruiting 170 participants and at least 60 participants completing • Tension Monitoring programme including interagency collaboration on shared priority issues (reactive). Engagement with at least 6 local communities on emerging community issues affecting service delivery, providing joined up approach
<p>Cultural Expression: Creating a community which promotes mutual respect, is strengthened by its diversity, and cultural expression is celebrated and embraced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cultural Capacity programme, engaging with up to 6 cultural/heritage groups (up to 80 individuals) to encourage positive engagement with wider communities on cultural identity • 1 Cultural Showcase (dependent on additional external OFMDFM funds) hosting 4 events to celebrate culture and heritage within the Council area • 1 Celebrating Sporting Difference Programme (dependent on additional external OFMDFM funds) targeting 120 young people and young adults
<p>Increase and improve leadership, capacity, organisation and capital building skills in order to support Good Relations outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Community & Statutory Dialogue (strategic/proactive) programme with representatives from relevant community & statutory partners to identify shared priorities/themes and develop collaborative approaches to addressing these – Community Planning for GR • 1 Good Relations Action Learning Programme. Advice/mentoring to at least 40 groups to develop GR projects. Delivery of 20-30 GR Action Learning Grants to local groups, involving at least 500 participants in activities supported. 2 shared GR peer focused workshops, attended by at least 80% of groups supported through grant aid. • 1 Monitoring & Evaluation toolkit developed to be used for all programme areas. 1 evaluation report compiled using data • 1 Train the Trainer Programme delivered to support staff in the delivery of training programmes to the community. At least 30 staff targeted to receive GR training and at least 40 groups receive GR training (inc. grant recipient groups).

Measurement – How will Good Relations measure change?

A range of key performance targets have been identified to measure how Good Relations Programmes are achieving targets and contributing to the realisation of outcomes. These key performance indicators have been aligned to both regional performance indicators, including those contained within OFMDFM’s Good Relations programme Indicators, as well as local indicators highlighted as part of the planning process. In addition, this data will be collated and analysed by way of the development of a bespoke Monitoring and Evaluation Framework/toolkit.

A comprehensive list of key performance indicators are included in the body of the action plan, and include, among others, the following:

Priority	Key Performance Indicators
<p>Our Children and Young People: Improving attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% increase in favourable towards people from other community backgrounds (from baseline position) • 40% of participants/children (age 16) who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago • 50% increase in no of participants children (age 16) who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time • 40% increase in young people who have engaged in projects with pupils from other schools • Of those who have done projects - 60% who thinks sharing is a good idea
<p>Promoting Shared Communities: creating a community where division does not restrict life opportunities; where all areas are open and accessible to everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% increase in number of positive articles (local issues) in media • Number of policies reviewed/ screened with impact on S75 (2) • Number of new policies developed which positively impact on S75 (2) • % who think that Protestants and Catholics tend to go to different local shops or use different/ other services in their area. • Decrease in community issues requiring mediation (self-referral or 3rd party referral) • Increase in inter and intra community dialogue on GR issues in contested areas • 70% participants favourable towards people from other community backgrounds
<p>Safe Communities:: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in number of racial incidents and crimes Reduction in number of homophobic incidents and crimes, sectarian incidents and crimes, religion incidents and crimes, disability incidents and crimes recorded • 40% increase of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life. • % local community issues which attract cross sector and community engagement to seek successful outcomes
<p>Cultural Expression: Creating a community which promotes mutual respect , is strengthened by its diversity, and cultural expression is celebrated and embraced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40%+ Protestant participants who think that their cultural identity is respected • 40%+ Catholic participants who think that their cultural identity is respected • 70% participants who think that the culture and traditions of indigenous and/or BME communities add to the richness and diversity of society

<p>Increase and improve leadership, capacity, organisation and capital building skills in order to support Good Relations outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood, and can have an impact on services are delivered within local communities • % programmes successfully completing M&E requirements - 100% • M&E toolkit reflects success of action plan in measuring contribution to GR Indicators as agreed by OFMDFM • 100% of participants successfully completing programme • Number of training session delivered to local communities and/or staff as a result
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1.5 Outcomes – achieving results and encouraging change

The five key priorities work with a variety of constituent groups, to address evidenced based need with the shared aims of fulfilling Council’s Good Relations duty by tackling sectarianism, racism and other forms of intolerance while actively promoting good relations both within Council and building positive relations within local communities.

The outcomes are included in the body of the action plan, and include, among others, the following:

Priority	Outcomes
<p>Our Children and Young People: Improving attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving attitudes between young people from different backgrounds • Young people engaging in bringing the community together.
<p>Promoting Shared Communities: creating a community where division does not restrict life opportunities; where all areas are open and accessible to everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Space is accessible to all. • Improved understanding of the norms cultures traditions and religions within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area • Increased use of shared space and services
<p>Safe Communities: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the reduction and the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation • A community where places and spaces are safe for all • Increased Partnership working in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area
<p>Cultural Expression: Creating a community which promotes mutual respect , is strengthened by its diversity, and cultural expression is celebrated and embraced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural diversity is celebrated • Improved understanding of the norms cultures traditions and religions within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area • Increased engagement

Increase and improve leadership, capacity, organisation and capital building skills in order to support Good Relations outcomes

- Increase sense of community belonging (widens contribution beyond community background)
- Increased Partnership working in the area
- Improved understanding of the norms cultures traditions and religions within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area
- Efficient delivery of GR Strategy.
- Focused, targeted approach to the delivery of GR.
- More positive relationships developed

Resourcing the Plan

Council have been successful in accessing £240,856 of funding for the period 2015/16 from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, based on the proposed strategy and action plan with the option of making additional application for funding to the Department's 'Summer Intervention Programme'. The Plan has been prioritised according to the audit findings within the strategy (high/medium/low), with the planning assumption that lower priority programmes will be subject to accessing funds additional to 'core' funding available from the Department to address the highest priority issues. These costs are based on current staffing levels (the Department prioritising funding 75% of costs towards staffing and operating costs), and may therefore be subject to adjustment in year, following agreed staffing structures for the service area.

The action plan has been developed based on a contribution from Council of £119,103, a 5% saving on the 2014/15 period. The total available costs for implementation of the Good Relations Action Plan will therefore be £359,959, with an additional application of £20,000 to OFMDFM's Summer Intervention programme, to bring levels of funding to 97% of the baseline level of funding from the Department in the 2014/15 period, if successful.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council adopt the Good Relations Strategy, 2015-16 Action Plan and financial contribution of up to £119,103 from Council and £240,856 from OFMDFM, to facilitate continuation of service delivery for the new Council area in the 2015-2016 period.

Good Relations Strategy 2014-17 & Action Plan 2015-16

Presentation to Organisation
Development Committee
May 2015

Good Relations Strategy 2014/17

Aims to provide opportunities for civic and community leaders to promote the Causeway Coast and Glens area as a model of best practice in developing respect, understanding and tolerance of the cultural, historical and traditional diversity of the residents

Action plan

- Overall 67% funding provided by OFMDFM
- Relevant and innovative programmes
- Engage with the key influencing agents
- Tackle hard issues
- Measured outcomes

Together Building A United Community

5 key elements

- Our Children and Young People
- Our Shared Community
- Our Safe Community
- Our Cultural Expression
- Supporting Programme Actions

Our Children and Young People

Project 1: Youth Cohesion Project

Project 2: Developing Youth Capacity

Project 3: Youth Civic Leadership



Our Shared Community

Project 1: Positive Media Project

Project 2: Policy Development Project

Project 3: Mediation and Dialogue Project

Project 4: Early Years Good Relations Project



Our Safe Community

Project 1: Challenging prejudice initiative

Project 2: Tension monitoring



Our Cultural Expression

Project 1: Cultural capacity

Project 2: Cultural showcase

Project 3: Celebrating Sporting Difference



EAST LONDONDERRY BANDS ASSOCIATION
Marching Culture



Local bands are pleased to work with North Londonderry Marshalling Forum to ensure best practice at parades and the highest level of safety and enjoyment for spectators and participants.

Marching bands have a large following. They provide a great outlet for those involved, from learning to play a musical instrument to being with bands, being part of a community or enjoying the excitement and energy of performing publicly. The tradition behind the formation of a band is closely religious or cultural and often provides a constructive outlet for younger people. Bands also provide other benefits for wider communities and economies through events and tourist generation. The music played by bands is of a very high standard and you will find countless bands who excel in competition, with world champions in the ranks of fife, brass, accordion and pipe bands.

The following bands are currently members of the East Londonderry Bands Association:

Macosquin First Fife Band - Moneybig Young Composers Fife Band
Boyesdy Fife Band - Moventis Fife Band - Ulster Protestant Boys Fife Band - Ballinkeer Fife Band - Portlough Sons of Ulster Fife Band - Blackhill Accordion Band - Coleraine Fife & Drum Band - Ballyrashane Protestant Fife Band - Ballywillan Fife Band - Boharane Accordion Band - Ballyvaughy Pride of Orange Fife Band - Dungiven Cross Defenders Fife Band
Freeman Memorial Fife Band

For further information, please contact eastlondonderrybands@gmail.com

Supporting Programme Actions

Project 1: Positive Political Dialogue

Project 2: Positive Community and Statutory Dialogue

Project 3: Good Relations Action Learning

Project 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

Project 5: Train the Trainers

Overview

- OFMDFM – Funding committed through the DCGRP
- Community and Statutory engagement
- Partnership working
- Complementarity
- Efficient use of resources