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P. Teahon

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- 2 JUN 1999

Interpoint Centre

4 June 1999

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Draft :

To be used as the basis for discussions on the Drumcree Church Parade and Portadown community issues.

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Welcome to the Interpoint Centre.

The enclosed draft is tabled as a starting point in discussing the question of the Drumcree Church Parade and related community issues which affect the Portadown area.

To allow the talks to flow, the principal parties have each appointed a facilitator. This facilitator will be responsible for alerting me when their group wish to enter into dialogue on some aspect of the draft. We will respond to that invitation by directly engaging with that group in their room. Discussion will focus, in the first instance, on the document entitled 'Drumcree Church Parade'. The process will continue in this way as we explore areas where agreement is possible. As indicated in the Prime Minister's letter, any interim agreements will remain temporary and without prejudice until the parties reach mutual agreement on an outcome to the issues. During the process there may be times when I cannot respond immediately to a request by a facilitator because I am engaged with one of the other parties. I ask for your patience at these times.

There will be media interest in these talks. A Press Officer will be present to ensure that the press do not intrude. A press statement has been issued by the Minister indicating that the talks are in progress. No other official statement will be made whilst the talks are in progress unless mutually agreed by the parties.

Administrative staff from the NIO will be available to take care of domestic arrangements. If your group requires anything, your facilitator should alert the NIO staff member.

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Drumcree Church Parade

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Drumcree Church Parade:

- **A Parade in 1999 as follows:**

  Outward route :

  On leaving Carleton Street progress along Church Street, Market Street and High Street to the junction with Castle Street. Turn back along High Street, Market Street, West Street and enter Charles Street. Proceed along Charles Street to the Dungannon /Moy Road roundabout. Continue along Dungannon Road to Rector's Corner. Proceed along Drumcree Road to Drumcree Parish Church.

  Return route:

  On leaving the Church, along Drumcree Road to Garvaghy Road. Progress along Garvaghy Road to Town Centre and return to Carleton Street Hall.

- **During the year June 1999/June 2000 establish a field commemorating Orange Culture.**

- **A Parade in 2000 as follows:**

  Outward route:

  To follow that of 1999.

  Return route:

  On leaving the Church progress along Drumcree Road to Rector's Corner. Proceed to the Commemorative Field to inaugurate and celebrate the establishment of the cultural heritage centre. Following the ceremony progress along Dungannon Road to the Dungannon

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/Moy Road roundabout. Along Charles Street to Loughgall Rd roundabout. From the Loughgall Rd roundabout turn left along West Street to the Town Centre. Along Market Street and High Street to the junction with Castle Street. Turn back along High Street, Market Street and Church Street and return to Carleton Street Hall.

- A Parade in 2001 following the outward and return route established in 2000.

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Portadown Initiative

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Portadown Initiative

1 The aim of this paper is to set out the broad thrust and rationale of an interlocking, twin-stranded intervention programme, crafted in partnership with all the key actors in the Portadown area, in a bid to address a number of acute and, in some ways unique, set of problems impacting on the Portadown area. This matrix of problems can be characterised as follows:

- a highly segregated population with virtually no neutral space
- pockets of social, physical and economic depravation !!
- a legacy of violence, including commercial bombings and inter-community strife, and
- a recent history of civil unrest directly related to marches and which has embroiled the wider Northern Ireland community.

2 To address these issues and build peace requires, in addition to an overall accommodation in relation to marches, a programme which embraces a range of physical, social, economic and cultural issues in a bid to build a more cohesive and equitable society in Portadown. There is a need to attract investment to, and build confidence in, the town and ensure that all areas can play an active role in contributing to that success. There is also an urgent need to inject a stimulus to deal with the problems of a divided society and foster an enhanced programme which celebrates diversity and promotes good community relations throughout the area, particularly among young people.

3 As part of a response to these issues this paper rehearses arguments for two elements of an overall initiative. First, it outlines a suggested method of creating a Forum which would enable the different elements of the Portadown community to work together to build a successful, harmonious

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and inclusive society. Second, the paper suggests a possible investment strategy which would target resources at areas which suffer most from economic, social and physical disadvantage.

Portadown Forum

4 The Forum would cover the two electoral areas - Portadown and Central - which comprise the Portadown area.

5 The Forum could have up to 30 members and comprise:

- One-third District Councillors representing parties in the two electoral areas
- One-third community, voluntary and cultural groups; and
- One-third business, trade unions, farming and statutory bodies.

6 Local Area Development Trusts might have nominating rights and discussion would be needed about nomination mechanisms.

Aims of the Forum

7 Working in co-operation with other bodies in the Craigavon area and Craigavon Borough Council, the Forum would seek to:

- promote investment: develop existing businesses and help attract new investment to the area, particularly to those areas of disadvantage;
- tackle problems of work-poor areas: develop initiatives to combat long term unemployment and improve issues of access to employment, education and further training opportunities;

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- promote community relations: encourage improved community relations, particularly among young people;

- nurture community development: support existing community development infrastructure and develop networks where there are gaps;

- improve physical environment: develop plans and projects to improve the physical environment, particularly at community interfaces and in areas of disadvantage;

- provide liaison with statutory bodies: to ensure effective implementation of mainstream programmes and create opportunities for piloting of exemplar models across areas;

- promote social inclusion: identify and support marginalised and excluded groups; and

- promote diversity: encourage appreciation and support for cultural and linguistic diversities.

Role of the Forum

8 The main role of the Forum would be to provide strategic advice to any investment initiative for Portadown and also provide a platform for dialogue on relevant major issues and problems on which consensus-based solutions can be found to build a new civic society. For that purpose the Forum would establish a number of committees including, in particular, a committee to consider community relations and cultural issues.

9 The Forum could also undertake a role in relation to emerging strategies to set a vision for the wider Craigavon area.

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10 The Forum might begin by conducting a major social, economic and cultural audit of the area which would provide baseline information to assist debate and help local development groups/ trusts to articulate and frame proposals for investment.

Investment initiative

11 The Government acknowledges that there are economic, social and cultural issues which must be addressed in Portadown and as part of an overall agreement it is prepared to establish an initiative similar to the Making Belfast Work programme.

12 The initiative will be for [3/ 5] years with up to £15million available over the period. The Social Needs (Northern Ireland) Order will provide the statutory authority for the initiative providing the highest priority for schemes in areas with the greatest levels of disadvantage. Following the initial socio-economic and cultural audit, an investment strategy would be developed in consultation with the Forum, the Borough Council and local groups. This strategy would set out the funding priorities, key targets and performance indicators for the period of the initiative.

13 Responsibility for the administration of the scheme will lie formally with the Department of the Environment. It will establish an area team tasked to liaise with the Forum local groups and statutory agencies in the development of appropriate programmes and projects. The area team could also underpin other Craigavon based initiatives, for example support for the Visioning arrangements for the Borough. Responsibility for the strategic direction of the initiative would, however, fall to Central Secretariat reporting initially to the Secretary of State and subsequently to the First and Deputy First Ministers after devolution.

14 Both the Forum and the area team would be required to monitor programmes and provide regular reports on progress and statements of accounts. The latter in a form agreed by the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

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These reports would formally have to go to the Secretary of State and subsequently to the Assembly and the First and Deputy First Ministers. Such reports would be the subject of a "community review" at an annual area conference involving a wide range of interests from the Portadown area.

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