

FUNDING LOYALIST COMMUNITIES**A. NORTH BELFAST COMMUNITY ACTION UNIT (OFMDFM) – COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME****Line to Take**

- Encourage the Upper and Lower North Belfast Partnerships to work towards acceptance of the Unit's offer, which is the first tranche of funding, and move forward

Background

1. The North Belfast Community Action Unit is currently working with and supporting a number of community led structures known as Community Empowerment Partnerships, throughout North Belfast. This is the primary mechanism for delivering a Community Capacity Building Programme.
2. The programme was one of the key recommendations of the Dunlop Report on North Belfast (published May 2002). As recommended in the report, the programme was designed and developed through a long consultation and training process involving 26 North Belfast community representatives.
3. Following programme design, the Unit invited proposals for the establishment of Community Empowerment Partnerships and for the preparation of three year area plans. We issued the following documents to guide proposals:
 - (a) Strategy for the formation of Community Empowerment Partnerships
 - (b) Guidance Notes for making proposals
 - (c) Selection Criteria.
4. The Unit enlisted the help of statutory colleagues and community representatives in the appraisal of the 12 proposals which emerged.

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5. Following appraisal, it was decided to support 8 proposals: 4 area based (Catholic), 2 area based (Protestant), and 2 thematic cross-community partnerships - one on peace building and leadership and the other on citizenship through the two main Scout movements. The Unit has continued to work with the 4 proposals which were not then ready for approval - Rathcoole area partnership, Greencastle area partnership, a further cross-community project to deliver advice services, and a cross-community project involving churches and schools, proposing to deliver outcomes through community relations work and sports development. All four are making good progress.

6. The unit has provided support mechanisms for all the partnerships, these include:

- a network reference group for training purposes and for discussion of cross cutting issues;
- a designated officer from each of the key agencies: DSD, BCC, NIHE, BELB, N&WSST and CRC to provide advice and signposting for partnerships;
- a designated development officer and a designated administration officer for each partnership.

7. The current position is that all but the 2 approved Unionist partnerships (Upper and Lower North Belfast) have accepted and are moving forward with the Unit's offer of help and funding. There are a number of issues influencing the Unionist position:

- (a) initial dissatisfaction with first tranche financial allocation. This applied to all partnerships, but the two Unionist partnerships are not ready or willing to move to the next step of strengthening their proposals and working toward a more substantial allocation. (For years 2&3);
- (b) changes in leadership at local community level. Those currently purporting to speak for the communities have come late to the programme and are unfamiliar with many of its arrangements. There is considerable division of opinion at local level;
- (c) local political differences. The most notable is in Lower North (but also having an impact in Upper North) where the Chief Executive of the lead partner LNBCC is now Ian Crozier whose arrival in this capacity has led to fractures and tensions among staff and voluntary players. Concerns about a DUP take-over have been expressed, including by Fred Cobain. LNBCC is the only organisation in the area

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capable of acting as lead partner, but it is suffering from a loss of the confidence of its constituent players, because of political perception;

- (d) in Upper North the Vine Centre is the lead partner but is showing signs of inability to cope and appears to be letting Ballysillan Community Forum (through Tommy Cheevers) take the lead. Unfortunately he does not subscribe to the programme ethos and is advocating a direction which is outside the approved remit of our programme. His ideas do not find favour with many of the community players but they appear reluctant to object to his proposals in open forum.

8. The Unit is tackling this situation in a number of ways. First continued work and support for many of the constituent groups in the areas either through our own offices or with others, eg BRO and BCC. Second continued discussion and negotiation with the partnerships to address and try to resolve problems and misunderstandings. In addition we plan to reconvene the Protestant partnership family in an effort to re-examine their programmes, provide refresher training and explore whether we can facilitate some modifications in structures and approaches that might be more manageable at local level. We are at the early stages of designing the event and are enlisting the help of Rev John Dunlop, Duncan Morrow and the consultant for the programme Venture International (Ricky O'Rawe).

B. SPECIAL EU PROGRAMME BODY - LOYALIST OUTREACH

Line to Take

- Welcome the study that SEUPB has commissioned
- Pleased to learn of the engagement of the UDA representatives with this work
- Hope that additional funds will be secured to meet the needs of the areas concerned.

Background

1. The Special European Programmes Body has commissioned MacBride International to undertake a study into the uptake of Peace II in specific disadvantaged areas. This arose from the representations made to NSMC by sections of the loyalist community to the effect that the Programme was failing to have an impact in their areas.

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2. The work undertaken involves a review of the nature and extent of deprivation in six specific locations in Northern Ireland agreed with a Steering Group comprising representatives of the UDA from the Belfast/Newtownabbey and Coleraine/Londonderry areas. This was complemented by an analysis of Peace II funding applications approved and rejected for these areas. Based on the need identified and the applications made, the consultant has been commissioned to assist the loyalist communities involved to define the key projects and objectives they wished to secure. Further, she was asked to provide a workshop and additional support to facilitate appropriate applications to the Peace Programme or other funders.

3. The interim report has been prepared and a meeting is being arranged with the steering group to decide how best to progress the workshop phase of the project.

4. The project is capable of being replicated for other groupings and in other areas.

C. FUNDING LOYALIST COMMUNITIES - LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND /
COMMUNITY CONVENTIONS

Lines to take

- Of course, I recognise that there are a number of loyalist communities throughout Northern Ireland where people believe that the benefits of the Good Friday Agreement have been very slow to reach them.
- In reality since suspension there have been a significant number of initiatives and actions aimed at building trust and confidence between and within communities. These initiatives have included specific action, directly and indirectly, to arrest the sense of powerlessness within Protestant communities. The initiatives include promoting participation in community involvement and development, ultimately tackling the deep-rooted condition of disadvantage and deprivation.
- The Local Community Fund was established to provide much need practical support to help and encourage local people to become involved in tackling issues in their own areas and in

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doing so gain skills and confidence. This Fund recognises the particular problems many working class communities face because of lack of community capacity and confidence.

- For this year the greater part of the Fund's resource has been allocated to loyalist areas in recognition of the particular difficulties that exist there. Officials are actively working with statutory partnerships in these areas to ensure the deployment of the Funds as quickly and effectively as possible.
- Additional support for the development and capacity of loyalist communities has been the commitment (originally given by my predecessor Des Browne) for pilot Community Conventions. Work is continuing with the help of consultants to determine the arrangements needed to support the proposed 4 pilots aimed at creating the opportunities to get local people to get together and learn about each other, but also to debate and identify their priorities and develop a new agenda for the future of their community.
- I hope that the results of such conventions will contribute to greater communication, integration and leadership in the loyalist communities.

Background

1. In recent months both the British and Irish Governments have made concerted efforts to engage positively with representatives of loyalist groupings (and their sponsors) in an attempt to address demonstrable need within that community and to create a climate conducive to political dialogue. Financial support has been provided to develop weak community infrastructure in working class unionist areas and engender confidence in those organisations to articulate the needs of their community.

2. The Community Action Group established in December 2002 was focused on rapidly improving co-ordination across departments in response to communities experiencing sectarianism and interface violence. In the initial stages there was not a particular focus on loyalist areas although it was clear that those areas would clearly benefit from such a development

3. Following contacts with loyalist politicians early in 2003 a decision was taken to establish the Local Community Fund. When the programme was announced a specific reference was made to targeting loyalist communities. As a result of that announcement a number of developments have

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occurred. First, within unionism and loyalism, expectations have been raised that government will deliver programmes tailored to the needs of those communities. The announcement in April 2003 of a package of measures totalling £7.4 million was, in part, a response to those expectations. The work proposed on community conventions reflected a specific proposal that emanated from within loyalism.

4. This package has been very specifically focused on the following areas:

- Improving communication at interfaces;
- Supporting and assisting local communities in dealing with sectarianism, for example through local environmental improvements;
- Underpinning community development; identifying and promoting good practice throughout Government and the voluntary and community sector; and
- Developing more effective intervention programmes for young people.

Community Conventions

5. Efforts by CAG to respond to approaches from the loyalist community and create practical ways to stimulate communities to tackle disadvantage and encourage them to work in partnership with government departments and statutory agencies and build stronger communities has focused on the development of the community convention concept.

6. Community conventions, modelled on the Shankill Convention held last year, were suggested by representatives of the Loyalist Think Tank as the first step in a process to develop and empower Protestant local communities to help them tackle issues in their areas, these were accepted as being much more sharply expressed than in Catholic areas. These include educational underachievement, paramilitarism, feelings of alienation and stigmatisation and a general sense of loss. Des Browne announced government support for the pilot conventions during a Shared Future workshop in Armagh earlier this year.

7. Subsequent discussions on the development of this proposal demonstrated a lack of supporting detail and the need for more in depth development. In order to ensure progress on the way forward officials in DSD, with the agreement of the Community Convention and Development Steering Group, (this includes senior representatives of loyalist communities across Northern Ireland and has developed from the Think Tank), developed detailed terms of reference and

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engaged independent consultants in order to develop a framework capable of delivering the proposed model. The outcome of this work will be available by the end of October at which time DSD and the Steering Group will have early discussions to agree the next steps.

8. Early thinking by the Community Convention and Development Steering Group suggested that pilot conventions may be held in Shankill, East Belfast, Craigavon and West of the Bann over a timescale of approximately 2 years. This plan is likely to be influenced significantly by the outcome of the consultants work. Initial findings, which at this time have not yet been written up, suggest that there is a degree of confusion in the minds of the Steering Group about the way forward.

9. In advance of the supporting detail and to ensure that any proposals emerging from the conventions could be properly addressed it was agreed that a round table should be developed. This will involve the Steering Group, Government departments and appropriate statutory agencies and will consider recommendations arising from the conventions and in particular, what forms of intervention are likely to be the most effective, how these might be delivered, developed and resourced.

Outreach Programme

10. This programme provides financial assistance to public sector organisations to help them change their policies, working methods and consultation arrangements in order to increase community involvement in the delivery of public services. It is worth £2.9 million in total.

11. A total of 14 projects have been selected for funding using an open application process. Each public sector applicant was expected to include community partners in their proposal. Of the successful projects 7 will benefit predominately protest / loyalist communities.

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Local Community Fund

12. The Local Community Fund has an initial budget of £3million and is to be used to develop community capacity and leadership in disadvantaged areas across Northern Ireland.
13. It was announced by Secretary of State in February 2003 and has its origins in the alienation of groups, particularly in Loyalist areas, who feel left behind by the peace process. A strong political message has been given that while the Fund is not exclusively for loyalist communities, it will aim to have a significant and positive impact in such communities.
14. Decisions on the areas to benefit from the Fund have been based on the Noble indices of deprivation supplemented by a mapping exercise undertaken by the Community Foundation Northern Ireland to identify areas of weak community infrastructure. Details of allocations by District Council area are attached, an analysis of these show that Protestant communities are the main beneficiaries on a 60/40 % basis. .
15. There are a number of other initiatives which while also not specifically targeted at Protestant communities do have significant value in addressing difficulties within Protestant communities. For example:
 - **The North Belfast Community Action Unit.** Whilst this initiative is deliberately focused on building good relations between all communities in North Belfast there is no doubt that the programme has to focus on the particular needs and difficulties in protestant communities. Again recent events in North Belfast indicate how central this programme is to addressing difficulties within loyalism. It should also be recognised that in implementing the programme a key difficulty, which we certainly have not yet solved, is about how we take forward work that does not further reinforce division and separation, let alone achieve better relations.
 - **Work by the Rural Community Network (RCN)** RCN is currently working on a programme with more than 20 Orange Lodges to help them establish structures that can enable their participation in community development activities. Lodges are being helped to establish community development associations that are independent, overcoming the difficulties the Orange Order has in directly controlling such work.

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- **Other Independent Work.** There are other activities ongoing in the community that are independently led that should be considered. For example the work of Diversity Challenges led by Will Glendenning and funded through Atlantic Philanthropies.¹

- **Other Work.** There is a wide range of initiatives that are again not specifically targeted on loyalism, but that are already having a significant impact on working class loyalist areas. They would include for example the Health Action Zones, the work of the Housing Executive, the West Belfast and Shankill Taskforces and the Employability Task Force. The latter initiatives for example should have a focus on the particular difficulties experienced in protestant areas related to the leakage of skilled people identified above.

Area	Initial Indicative
Lower Shankill	£56,781.26
Brown Square	£6,009.10
Portinger (Inner East)	£418,226.39
Avoniel (Part of Inner East)	
The Mount (Part of Inner East)	
Willowfield (Part of Inner East)	
Ravenhill (Part of Inner East)	
Clontarf	£92,336.87
Beechmount/Cavendish	£81,367.74
Village	£139,816.23
Glenn	£87,422.87
Highfield	£51,751.17
Finaghy	£65,748.76
TOTAL	£986,482.54

¹ It should be noted that Atlantic Philanthropies has recently changed its strategic priorities but will still focus on reconciliation and human rights

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LOCAL COMMUNITY AREAS AND ALLOCATIONS BY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ards

Area	Initial indicative allocation for area
Bowtown Estate	£47,979.73
TOTAL	£47,979.73

Belfast

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Lower Shankill	£56,761.26
Brown Square	£6409.10
Pottinger (Inner East)	£418,220.39
Avoniel (Part of Inner East)	
The Mount (Part of Inner East)	
Willowfield (Part of Inner East)	
Ravenhill (Part of Inner East)	
Clonard	£82,326.85
Beechmount/Cavendish	£81,583.25
Village	£139,619.25
Glencairn	£85,442.87
Highfield	£51,131.17
Finaghy	£65,188.70
TOTAL	£986,682.84

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Carrickfergus

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Sunnylands	£72,872.54
Greenisland/Gortalee	£84,840.92
TOTAL	£157,713.46

Castlereagh

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Tullycarnet	£63,489.05
TOTAL	£63,489.05

Coleraine

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Ballysally	£67,773.59
The Heights	£46,421.72
TOTAL	£114,195.31

Cookstown

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Stewartstown	£38,985.75
TOTAL	£38,985.75

Craigavon

Area	Indicative
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	allocation for area
Parkmore	£17,704.70
TOTAL	£17,704.70

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Boylehill/Craggan	£35,975.95
Top of Hill/Glenascale	£43,907.83
Shanagallow	£99,394.18
Glen Estate	£35,161.53
Carrymann and Tallally	£53,343.89
Clonney	£39,304.15
Irish Street	£23,317.72
Leenshanduncy	£20,077.33
Ballyragan/Hazelbank	£120,314.90
TOTAL	£475,794.11

Down

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Model Farm Estate	£23,743.11
Flying Horse Estate	£25,643.45
Newcastle	£59,062.87
TOTAL	£108,450.44

Dur Cannon

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Ballysaggart	£97,269.61
TOTAL	£97,269.61

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Derry

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Foylehill/Creggan	£35,975.95
Top of Hill/Gobnascale	£43,907.65
Shantallow	£99,394.18
Glen Estate	£35,161.53
Curryneirin and Tullally	£55,344.89
Clooney	£39,800.16
Irish Street	£25,317.72
Lettershandoney	£20,077.13
Ballymagroaty/Hazel bank	£120,214.90
TOTAL	£475,194.11

Down

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Model Farm Estate	£23,795.11
Flying Horse Estate	£25,848.86
Newcastle	£59,062.87
TOTAL	£108,706.84

Dungannon

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Ballysaggart	£97,269.61
TOTAL	£97,269.61

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Area	Indicative allocation for area
Everdale	£20,502.04
TOTAL	£20,502.04

Linnavady

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Glen Rock	£37,358.95
Hospital Lane	
TOTAL	£37,358.95

Mayle Council

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Ballycastle Town	£35,834.31
TOTAL	£35,834.31

Newry and Mourne

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Craigat	£5453.05
Newtownhamilton Village	£14,163.76
Derrybeg	£24,321.99
TOTAL	£44,438.80

Newtownabbey

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Larne

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Riverdale	£20,502.04
TOTAL	£20,502.04

Limavady

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Glen Roe & Hospital Lane	£57,858.95
TOTAL	£57,858.95

Moyle Council

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Ballycastle Town	£35,834.31
TOTAL	£35,834.31

Newry and Mourne

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Carnagat	£5,453.05
Newtownhamilton Village	£14,163.76
Derrybeg	£24,821.99
TOTAL	£44,438.80

Newtownabbey

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Area	Indicative allocation for area
Glengormley	£55,840.62
TOTAL	£55,840.62

North Down

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Rathgill	£33,568.11
Harbour Ward	£84,840.92
TOTAL	£118,409.03

Omagh

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Carrickmore/Fox Park	£27,371.46
Fintona	£34,559.57
TOTAL	£61,931.03

Strabane

Area	Indicative allocation for area
Glenderg Ward	£87,567.44
Lisnafin	£54,424.24
Ballycolman	£105,272.14
TOTAL	£247,263.82

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