



Briefing paper

Date: 30th April 2014

No.3

Subject: Creation of a UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter

1. Introduction

This report provides a short overview of the creation of a cross-national chapter of Mayors for Peace in the UK and Ireland – covering its membership in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The creation of the Chapter is a major milestone for the organisation and is the fourth national / cross-national chapter of Mayors for Peace – following France, Japan and Germany. This short briefing summarises the developments that were agreed at Chapter meetings held in Manchester Town Hall in October 2014 and January 2015.

2. Mayors for Peace in the UK and Ireland

Manchester City Council is a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace. On the request of Hiroshima City, it had pledged to develop a cross-national Chapter of Mayors for Peace in order to seek to deepen the membership of existing members, recruit new members, organise Mayors for Peace meetings and events, develop a system to process voluntary membership fees, and co-operate with and support the international activities of Mayors for Peace. A meeting on the 30th January of UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members formally agreed to put the Chapter in place, after an initial recommendation at its 3rd October 2014 meeting.

These two meetings were attended by Mayors for Peace members from all parts of the British and Irish Isles, including the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Assistant Mayor of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, the Mayor of High Peak, the Deputy Mayor of Rochdale, the Mayor of Hebden Royd Town Council, the Leader of Otley Town Council and councillor nominated representatives from Glasgow, Renfrew, Edinburgh, Caerphilly, Leeds, Rochdale and Manchester. Written support for the changes had also been submitted by a number of other Councils who were unable to attend the meeting in Manchester Town Hall, such as Dublin City Council, Cardiff City Council and Lydney Town Council.

3. What was agreed?

After considerable open discussion (over two meetings), the following was agreed:

- That a UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace should be established.
- That the Chapter should be called the 'UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace' with a strap-line on all correspondence that it was the cross-national chapter of UK and Irish members of Mayors for Peace. This would allow Councils to nominate Mayors / Provosts, Leaders or nominated councillors to represent them at future Chapter meetings.
- To agree a full constitution of the Chapter. This is attached below.
- It was agreed that Manchester City Council would provide the Secretariat of the Chapter and political leadership of the Chapter.
- It was agreed to approach Leading Member Councils of the constituent parts of the UK and Ireland to consider having Vice Chairs representing England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland (Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland).

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- It was agreed that Manchester City Council should administer and process voluntary annual membership fees with a minimum contribution of £120 / €150 (based on October 2014 exchange rates) for County, Metropolitan and District / Borough Councils and £60 / €75 for Town Councils and smaller levels of local government. This would be a voluntary contribution and Councils could pay more than the minimum contribution if they so wish. Non payment did not preclude membership, but for the development of the Chapter it was to be encouraged.
- It was agreed that Manchester City Council should liaise with Hiroshima City Council on Mayors for Peace activities, including the receipt of seeds from second generation A-bomb damaged trees. The seeds are a powerful symbol of peace and reconciliation and have already been offered to Mayors for Peace Lead City members.
- The meeting agreed that a Chapter should particularly focus on the core campaign of Mayors for Peace – nuclear weapons abolition, but that over time it would promote and support other relevant issues around peace and social justice may be considered by it.
- Projects like the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail (other Mayors for Peace members like Leeds, Bradford, Coventry, London and Cambridge have developed similar trails), ceremonies for Hiroshima Day, Nagasaki Day and International Peace Day, ceremonies linked to the 100th anniversary of the First World War, Holocaust Memorial Day, International Peace Day and specific peace educational projects in schools were all mentioned.
- The 30th January meeting also included a guided tour by the co-curator of a major art exhibition – ‘The Sensory War: Conflict and Art 1914 – 2014’ in Manchester City Art Gallery. This included, for the first time in the UK, art from hibakuska survivors of Hiroshima, kindly loaned from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

4. What happens next ?

It was agreed, and actioned, to inform all UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace of these changes and the development of the Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter. It was also agreed that a follow-up meeting should be held in **Manchester Town Hall on the 19th June 2015** to discuss ways to increase membership and to determine priorities for the 2015/16 political year. It was agreed that the Chapter Secretary would issue voluntary membership invoices prior to this meeting. Manchester City Council would also discuss the development of the Chapter at the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board Meeting in Ypres on the 24th April and at the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, which will also take place in Ypres in early November 2015.

The June 19th meeting will also discuss upcoming, important anniversaries where Member Councils can reiterate their support for Mayors for Peace, including :

- The first use of chemical weapons during the First World War – this anniversary is being held in Ypres, Belgium and representatives from Manchester City Council are attending it and a major Mayors for Peace Conference. This is being considered in more detail in UK Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Briefing Paper 4. Throughout the period 2014 – 2014 there will be a number of First World War centenary events that UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members could link in with its support for the organisation.
- The 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings – this anniversary will be on August 6th and August 9th 2015, and Mayors for Peace members have been urged to commemorate it, in conjunction with similar ceremonies to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.
- The UN International Day of Peace is held on September 21st and is an anniversary that will be celebrated by Mayors for Peace members across the world.
- The UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was instituted on September 28th, 2014 and will now become an annual event which Member Councils are encouraged to support.
- All Councils support events for Remembrance Sunday on the second Sunday in November. Some mention of Mayors for Peace membership is welcome.

- Councils support events for Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27th January each year and again some mention of Mayors for Peace membership is welcome.
- Many UK and Irish Mayors for Peace members have twinning and friendship agreements with other towns and cities around the world. Many came about from developing friendship links with former foes, and more recently for trade and economic links. There is benefit in seeking to encourage twin cities to join Mayors for Peace if they have not done so already, or sharing joint support of Mayors for Peace if they are.

As an example of such links, Manchester has undertaken two recent civic events where it celebrated its Mayors for Peace membership in relation to the centenary of the First World War. The first event allowed Manchester City Council to commemorate the close links that have recently been developed with the city and the French municipality of Ors. The Manchester-based 'Feelgood Theatre Productions' have just completed a national tour of a play titled 'Not About Heroes'. This recollects a meeting between two famous First World War poets, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, in a hospital in Edinburgh in which they talked about their personal experiences of war. Wilfred Owen was a soldier in a regiment based in the Manchester area and his poetry powerfully recalls the horror, destruction and futility of war on the Western Front in the famous battles of Ypres and the Somme. A memorial to Wilfred Owen has recently been renovated by the French municipality of Ors, and the Mayor of Ors, Jacky Duminy, attended a civic reception in Manchester with the Lord Mayor of Manchester to celebrate this play and the work of the theatre company.

In the second event, an exhibition was officially launched in Manchester Central Library to commemorate the links between Manchester and the French municipality of Charleville-Mezieres. During the First World War, the town of Mezieres was almost completely destroyed. Due to connections that existed between the two Councils, a major fund-raising campaign was launched in the 1920s and 1930s in Manchester, including a Lord Mayors Parade and many other civic events. The money raised by these events was used to help rebuild Mezieres. To this day, a district of the town is called 'Manchester' and is based on English-style houses of the time, whilst the hospital in the town is also named the 'Manchester' Hospital. The exhibition in Manchester Central Library chronicles these links, and it was formally opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Susan Cooley, and the Mayor of Charleville-Mezieres, Boris Ravignon. The Lord Mayor of Manchester had also visited Charleville-Mezieres in November 2014 and took part in its remembrance events. The exhibition runs from the 13th April to the 30th May.

5. Actions and recommendations

It is recommended that this report is shared with Mayors / Provosts (and their equivalent) and their Secretaries, and the information passed on to their replacements where appropriate for the new civic year. This report should also be shared with the Leader of the Council and with the Executive Member responsible for international affairs.

Other actions requested of Member Councils include :

- Councils should endeavour to send a representative (the Mayor / Provost or a nominated councillor / officer) to the Chapter meeting in Manchester Town Hall on 19th June.
- Councils should endeavour to process voluntary membership fees which will be used to develop the Chapter (such as the development of a website, membership recruitment activities and a future membership pack).
- Councils should encourage their twin cities to join Mayors for Peace, if they are not a member.
- Councils should consider showing its support for Mayors for Peace at relevant anniversary events, including those noted above.
- Councils should consider supporting relevant peace education initiatives, such as taking up Hiroshima's offer of gingko seeds, or supporting local festivals or peace trails.

Appendix 1 - Constitution for the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter

Agreement for the establishment of the UK and Ireland Cross-national Chapter of Mayors for Peace Member Cities

(Name)

Article 1 The group of UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Member Councils shall be called the *'UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter'*.

(Purpose)

Article 2 The purpose of this Chapter is to promote partnership and coordination among member Councils in the UK and Republic of Ireland (hereinafter, "Member Councils") to ensure that the activities of Mayors for Peace in the UK and Ireland is carried out in a more proactive manner.

(Organisation)

Article 3 Given the nature of political leadership in local government in the UK and Ireland the membership of the Chapter shall be led by Elected Mayors, Ceremonial Mayors and Provosts (or their equivalent, such as Chairpersons or Conveners); or their nominated representative - who should be elected members of the Council and who can deputise for the Mayor / Provost (or equivalent) on behalf of their Council (hereinafter, "nominated representatives").

(Officers)

Article 4

1. The Chapter shall have a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. As a 'Lead City' and Secretariat of the Chapter, the Lord Mayor of Manchester shall be appointed as the Chairperson. This will change if for any reason the Secretariat moves to another Council on the agreement of Chapter members. The Annual Meeting of the Chapter shall determine the Vice-Chairperson(s).
2. The Chairperson shall represent and preside over the affairs of the Chapter.
3. The Vice-Chairperson(s) shall assist the Chairperson and, in case of the inability of the Chairperson, carry out the duties of the Chairperson on his/her behalf.
4. In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair(s) they can nominate an elected member from their own authority to deputise on their behalf. In the unlikely event that this is not possible, the Chapter meeting can nominate a representative to chair the individual meeting from the representatives who attend.

(General meeting)

Article 5

1. The Chapter shall hold an annual general meeting and one or two ordinary meetings each year in which efforts to develop, expand and deepen interest in the national and international activities of Mayors for Peace can be discussed.
2. The Chairperson shall convene and chair the general meeting.
3. In case Mayors or Provosts (or their equivalent) are unable to attend the general meeting, they may have a proxy, who must be an elected member from their Council, to attend in their place.
4. The agenda for the general meeting shall be resolved by a majority of attendees and, in case pros and cons are the same in number, by a vote of the Chairperson.

(Secretariat)

Article 6 The Secretariat shall be established in Manchester City Council to operate the affairs of the Chapter. In the event that Manchester City Council does not wish to provide the services of the Secretariat, it will give adequate notice to member authorities to seek an alternative Council to take on this role. Manchester City Council agrees that the Council's Principal Policy & Research Officer (Nuclear Policy) will provide the Secretariat support. In the event of adequate budget, the Secretariat may appoint additional support staff in consultation with the Chairperson and the approval of the Chapter.

(Membership fees)

Article 7 As the Secretariat of the Chapter, Manchester City Council should administer and process voluntary annual membership fees with a minimum contribution of £120 / €150 (based on January 2015 exchange rates and reviewed annually) for County, Metropolitan and District / Borough Councils and £60 / €75 for Town Councils and smaller levels of local government. This would be a voluntary contribution and Councils could pay more than the minimum contribution if they so wish. Non payment does not preclude Chapter membership, but for the development of the Chapter it is to be encouraged.

(Remit of Chapter)

Article 8 The Chapter will provide a local focus to support the mission of the Mayors for Peace, as established in its original International Covenant agreed in 1982, and last amended at its Executive and General Conference in August 2013 – “The Mayors for Peace, through close cooperation among the cities, strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realization of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protect the environment, and solve the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family.”

(Role of elected members, officers and NGO representatives)

Article 9 All decisions of the Chapter will be agreed during the meeting. If there is disagreement on any particular issue it will be determined by a majority vote of Mayors / Provosts / Leaders or their nominated elected member representatives only. Council officers and members of relevant non governmental representatives will be allowed to observe meetings and make contributions as determined by the Chairperson, but will have no voting rights for decisions made by the Chapter.

(Provisions for delegation)

Article 10 In addition to what is specified in this Agreement, necessary matters to operate the Chapter shall be decided by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and brought to Chapter meetings for their approval.

Supplementary Provisions

This Agreement shall come into force from January 30, 2015.

Appendix 2 – Photos from the October 2014 and January 2015 Mayors for Peace meetings



Some of the attendees at the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group, Manchester Town Hall, 3rd October 2014.



Some of the attendees of the Mayors for Peace meeting in front of hibakuska paintings at the Manchester City Art Gallery 'The Sensory War' exhibition.