



The UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group formally agree to establish a 'UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts Leader for Peace Chapter' at its meeting in Manchester Town Hall

Manchester Town Hall, 30th January 2015

At a meeting of UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Member Councils held in Manchester Town Hall there was unanimous agreement to formally establish a cross-national Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

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 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. The meeting on the 30th January formally agreed to put the Chapter in place.

The meeting was 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 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, Leeds 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.

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).
- 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.

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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.

Constitution for the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter

Agreement for 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 of 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.