

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICA ASOCIATION HELD ON TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 16.30 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

Present:

Jo Andrews - BCU (Chair)

Erica Arthur – UoB

Symon Easton - BCC

Ravinder Masih - AVFC

Mike Murray - BCC

Harpreet Sabbharwal

Kimberley Sangha - AVFC

Louise Toner - BCU

Apologies: Carl Smith.

Notes of last meeting: LT clarified that BCU`s engagement with De Paul University was children focused projects with a view to sharing information and experience virtually.

Subject to the clarification made, the notes were agreed.

Chair`s update

Colleagues were informed by JA of the recent visit to Birmingham by a delegation from the London Embassy of the United States of America. The 3 person delegation was headed by the Economic Adviser and in the city to obtain a better understanding of linkages and interests between Birmingham and the USA. The International Affairs Team had compiled a 1.5 day itinerary comprising meetings with public and business leaders as well as showcasing a range of Birmingham venues.

The delegation has been formally designated as the USA Birmingham Team and will be making further visits to the city to develop further UK / USA engagement across a variety of sectors.

North America Association visit to Chicago – March 2015

JA reminded colleagues that the focus of the meeting was to discuss the programme and arrangements for the NAA visit to Chicago between 16 and 22 March 2015.

JA and MM outlined the draft programme for the visit. In consultation with Chicago City Hall, Chicago Sister Cities and the British Consulate Chicago a series of meetings were being arranged to progress the Sister Cities work programme. The meetings will include: internships between the cities as instigated by National Express, city management, school governance, the Sister City Committee(s), social services, school collaboration, business, Irish community and employability.

MM was awaiting further programme details from Sister Cities, the UK Consulate and the British American Business Council.

In addition Steve Bridges, UK Consul General had undertaken to host a Birmingham showcase event at his residence to which leading Chicago public and private sector representatives will be invited.

HS offered to include details of the NAA visit in his next blog.

Colleagues who had not already signed up for the Chicago were encouraged to do so. The delegation currently comprised JA, MM, Jack Kelly from National Express and Catherine Staite from the Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham. It was hoped representatives of Birmingham Airport, Aston Villa Football Club and Birmingham City Council (Culture) would also participate.

JA and MM undertook to provide updates on the Chicago visit programme as they emerged.

Date of next meeting – to be determined.