

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**ROYAL AIR FORCE CENTENARY (RAF100) - BOMBER COMMAND
MEMORIAL****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the County Council's proposals to commemorate the centenary of the Royal Air Force (RAF100) in 2018/19.
2. To seek in principle approval to commit up to £10,000 as a contribution towards an RAF memorial being planned and delivered north of Newark during 2018/19.

Information

3. The Royal Airforce was formed on 1 April 1918 as a separate Service, independent of the British Army and Royal Navy; the first time that any country had formed an entirely separate and independent air force. The new Service had its own ministry under a Secretary of State for Air.
4. Nottinghamshire was the home to fifteen major military airfields during World War Two, several with a strong connection to Bomber Command, and the Battle of Britain.
5. Bomber Command crews suffered a high casualty rate: 55,573 were killed out of a total of 125,000 aircrew, a further 8,403 were wounded in action, and 9,838 became prisoners of war.

Bomber County Gateway Trust

6. The tribute to RAF bomber crews who served in World War Two will stand next to the A46 between Newark and Lincoln at Norton Disney. The sculpture of an Avro Lancaster in flight will have a wingspan of 31m and will be mounted on a 10-12m stand, and will reach a height of 30m (98ft) above ground. A ground-breaking ceremony attended by veterans of Bomber Command, including Dam buster George "Johnny" Johnson, is planned to take place in May 2018.
7. The Bomber County Gateway Trust hope to have the memorial ready by Armistice Day in November 2018. However this might be unrealistic and the Trust have been advised to have a contingency in place.
8. Planning permission has been granted by North Kesteven District Council.

9. The County Council has received a request from the Bomber County Gateway Trust for a contribution towards the cost of building and installing the proposed memorial.
10. Members' approval is also requested for appropriate publicity for the project.

Other Options Considered

11. That the County Council make no contribution.
12. That the County Council contribute up to £25,000

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The County Council will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War, including RAF100 through a range of events and community projects during 2018. This report outlines and commemorates RAF100 and the impact on, and sacrifices made by, Nottinghamshire Airfields, service personnel and the surrounding communities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. The direct cost to the County Council associated with activities detailed in the report will be £10,000. It is anticipated that the costs will be met from the Contingency Budget. A request for contingency funding will be made to Finance & Major Contracts Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) To make a request to Finance & Major Contracts Committee to approve up to £10,000 to fund a memorial to Bomber Command.
- 2) That a final report on this area of work is made to the Communities and Place Committee.
- 3) That appropriate publicity be undertaken as part of the programme of events.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Cathy Harvey, Community and Voluntary Sector Team Manager, T: 0115 977 3415, E: cathy.harvey@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments [SLB 08/05/2018]

12. It is appropriate for Policy Committee to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments [RWK 02/05/2018]

13. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'None'

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- 'All'