



## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **THE GREAT WAR ONE HUNDRED YEAR COMMEMORATIONS 2018**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To review the County Council's proposals to commemorate the end of the Great War in 2018.
2. To seek approval to commit up to £190,000 to fund events being planned and delivered during 2018.

#### **Information and Advice**

3. 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the Great War. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will lead the planning at a national level for a programme of centenary ceremonial events, cultural activity and education.
4. On 11 August 2017, the Minister for Faith Lord Bourne said: "It is vitally important that each new generation is encouraged to remember the enormous sacrifices made in defending the liberties we take for granted today. The stories of individual bravery and terrible losses experienced by countless families must never be forgotten."
5. All local authorities in Nottinghamshire have signed the 'Community Covenant', which has now been superseded by the 'Armed Forces Covenant'. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served, and their families, are treated fairly. This commitment is made in recognition of the sacrifices they make on behalf of the country. The Armed Forces Covenant is not designed to give the Armed Forces, Veterans and their families' preferential treatment compared with other citizens, but it should ensure that they get a fair deal and are not disadvantaged because of their service.
6. Nottinghamshire County Council has a strong and proud record in supporting the armed forces community. As part of the county's tribute, the Council's priorities will be to support legacy projects to ensure that local landmarks and events are recorded and highlighted for future generations. The aim is to bring the Past, Present and Future to life by promoting events that commemorate the proud history and sacrifice of Nottinghamshire people.

#### **Proposed Activities in 2018**

7. **RAF100 Aerospace Camp:** The Royal Airforce was formed 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 formed on 1 April 1918 and had its own ministry under a Secretary of State for Air. Working with serving personnel it is

proposed to support an event at RAF Syerston during their RAF100 AeroSpace camp, 20-24 August 2018.

8. The camp is usually for 14-16 year olds associated with Air Cadet Units in Nottinghamshire. A special arrangement has been agreed for 2018 to invite up to fifty young people from across Nottinghamshire to take part, with a special invitation to their VIP day, which will be 22 August 2018. Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) Youth Service will work to include the proposed activity into the county-wide youth diary of events and it is expected that £1,500 will fund this activity.
9. **Nottinghamshire Victoria Cross recipients:** The Victoria Cross is the highest award of the United Kingdom honours system. It is and was awarded for gallantry "in the face of the enemy" to members of the British and Empire Armed Forces. It may be awarded posthumously. There were 6 such awards made during the Great War to men who were born in Nottinghamshire. These were:
  - Lance Corporal Wilfred Dolby Fuller - gazetted 15 March 1915  
Born, Greasley - 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.
  - Private Samuel Harvey - gazetted 29 September 1915  
Born, Basford -1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment.
  - Captain, Sir Geoffrey Vickers - gazetted 14 October 1915  
Born, Nottingham - 1/7th Robin Hood Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters.
  - Sapper William Hackett - gazetted 23 June 1916  
Born, Nottingham - 254th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers.
  - Captain Albert Ball - gazetted 6 May 1917  
Born, Nottingham -7th Robin Hood Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters & Royal Flying Corps.
  - Sergeant William Henry Johnson - gazetted 3 October 1918  
Born, Worksop - 1/7th Sherwood Foresters.
10. The Western Front Association (WFA) Midlands East was formed with the aim of furthering interest in the Great War. It is proposed to work with and provide funding of up to £2,500 to support the WFA to design and build a mobile display of interpretation boards and associated artefacts telling all the stories of true heroism. Local Libraries, museums and public buildings will host the exhibition on a rota basis.
11. **Chilwell Shell Filling Factory Disaster:** A 100<sup>th</sup> commemorative service has been planned to remember the one hundred and thirty four workers who died at the factory on 1 July 1918 following an explosion of eight tonnes of TNT. The Reverend Jonathan Smithurst will hold a service at St Mary's the Virgin Church in Attenborough on 1 July 2018. A reception and exhibition of the disaster will take place in the village hall after the service, funding of upto £1,000 will be available to support this.
12. **Nottinghamshire during the Great War – Heritage Day, 11 July 2018:** Working with the Nottinghamshire Heritage Forum (NHF), it is proposed to host an open air pop up museum for one day at Rufford Abbey, costing upto £3,000 to commemorate the rich history of Nottinghamshire during the Great War. The NHF consists of more than 16 museums who will each take a thematic lead on a subject connected to the Great War. Themes will include: the home front, food and rationing, school days and games, local regiments and their deployments.

13. **Screening of War Horse:** An outdoor screening of Steven Spielberg's adaption of Michael Murpurgo's novel of the same name. Working with Parkwood Outdoors and with Rufford Abbey as a back drop, it is proposed to hold and fund a picnic-style filmshow on the evening of 17 August. This is likely to cost up to a maximum of £5,000
14. **Sgt William (Bill) Johnson VC – 1/5 Battalion The Sherwood Foresters:** The Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for gallantry, was awarded to Sergeant William Johnson VC on 3 October 1918, following his exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty during action at Ramicourt. To mark the centenary of his action and in line with national guidance a paving stone will be placed in the Memorial Gardens, The Canch, Worksop. There will be a service of remembrance, civic reception and display of artefacts relating to him at the local library. Funding of upto £500 will be made available to support this.
15. **Britten's War Requiem Concert:** The Nottingham Harmonic Society, in association with other county choirs, will perform Britten's War Requiem at the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham. A violin soloist will play Captain Albert Ball's VC, DSO & 2 Bars, MC restored violin. The event will be held on Sunday 4 November 2018 with a contribution of £2,500 to support the event.
16. **Commemorative Service and Armed Forces Covenant signing:** The Dean of Southwell Minster will conduct a Commemorative Service and Armed Forces Covenant signing to mark the end of the Great War. Southwell Minster was the spiritual focus for the men of Nottinghamshire, being the diocesan Cathedral. It is proposed to hold and provide funding of £5,000 for a joint commemorative service and Armed Forces Covenant signing on 7 November 2018 to which all Local Authorities in Nottinghamshire attend and take part.
17. The aim is to honour the sacrifice of the people of Nottinghamshire during the Great War and to pay respect to current armed forces personnel and show commitment to the armed forces community in the future. The collective signing is being encouraged and supported by Col John S Wilson (Retd) OBE DL, Regional Engagement Director, East Midlands, Defence Relationship Management M.O.D.
18. **WW1 Beacons of Light :** Her Majesty the Queen will light a Beacon of Light at 7:00pm on 11 November 2018 at the Tower of London, signalling the lighting of Beacons across the Nation. A Beacon will be lit at County Hall to mark the occasion. Funding of upto £1,500 will support this activity and as Beacons blaze around the country, bells in 1,000 churches and cathedrals will ring out in celebration of the end of the Great War.
19. **Libraries and Archives:** Inspire Culture, Library and Archive service will present the Wipers Times. Funding of upto £5,000 will support this showcase event which will include a screening of the recent film, and the chance to view the real Wipers Times from the county's collection. A series of speakers will deliver war themed talks across Inspire's library and archive network. Songs and Scones. This popular series will be delivered in West Bridgford and Worksop featuring songs from the era.
20. **Victoria Embankment Memorial Project: Working with the City Council, the County will help to ensure that** the names of all the 14,000 Nottinghamshire fallen during the Great War will be placed onto a memorial (design TBC) which will be sited on the Victoria Embankment, Nottingham. A contribution of upto £100,000 will be available to support this lasting legacy.
21. **Children Families and Cultural Services:** A package of activities are being developed to include Young people and Children. This is likely to cost upto £5,000.

22. **Staffing costs and resources – Community and Voluntary Sector Team:** The development of the programme of the proposed events will be co-ordinated by the Community and Voluntary Sector Team, drawing on other colleagues across the authority as required. In order to ensure that the events are coordinated and overseen, developed, administered and delivered up to November 2018, it will be necessary to have dedicated officer time and to ensure that other work continues, it is requested that members approve that appropriate alternatives are explored to manage this which could include the back filling of roles. This is likely to be in the region of £52,500.
23. Members' approval is also requested for appropriate publicity for the programme and events. This is likely to be in the region of £5,000.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

24. The County Council has commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great War through a range of events and community projects during the period 2014-17. This report outlines a series of activities that will mark the return of peace in 2018 and commemorate the impact on, and sacrifices made by, Nottinghamshire communities.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

25. 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**

26. The direct cost to the County Council associated with activities detailed in the report will be £190,000. 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 agree to the development of proposals to commemorate the end of the Great War in 2018.
- 2) To make a request to Finance & Major Contracts Committee to approve up to £190,000 to fund events being planned and delivered during 2018.
- 3) That future updates on this area of work are made to the Communities and Place Committee.
- 4) That approval be given to expenditure to back fill roles within the Community and Voluntary team as required.
- 5) 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](mailto:cathy.harvey@nottscc.gov.uk)**

#### **Constitutional Comments [CEH 27/12/17]**

26. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the recommendations in this report.

#### **Financial Comments (SES 05/01/18)**

27. 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'