

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY COMMEMORATION**

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

1. To provide an overview of activity led and supported by the County Council to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.
2. To seek approval for activity to progress beyond the initial planning stage.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

3. 2014 will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War.
4. The First World War was a turning point in world history. It claimed the lives of over 16 million people across the globe and had an impact on the lives of everyone.
5. Nottinghamshire people and places are connected to the First World War, either through family history, heritage of local communities or its long term impact on society and the world we live in today.
6. The Imperial War Museum is providing a national lead, encouraging cultural, historic, volunteer and local authorities to contribute to a fitting commemoration to such a significant historical event.
7. There are already a number of projects in the planning stage across Nottinghamshire, many supported by County Council services.

##### **Current position**

8. A co-ordination group led by the Group Manager, Libraries, Archives and Information, has been established to ensure the County Council co-ordinates its own activity and co-ordinates its contribution to commemorative activity across Nottinghamshire.
9. A number of projects are currently in the planning stage. The following list highlights the areas of work and the lead County Council services:

Area of work	Date	Lead Service
<p><b>Britain in the Great War, 1914-1918</b></p> <p>Events will include period music shows, dancing, cooking and military drill demonstrations, harvesting by Land Army Girls and heavy horses, troop manoeuvres, period vehicles, artillery firings and for children a Junior Boot Camp, battle interactives and a puppet show.</p> <p>28 June 2014 is the centenary date on which the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated. (This was the act which brought about the start of WWI a month later).</p>	28 - 29 Jun 2014	Country Parks – Rufford
<p><b>World War One – Exhibition</b></p> <p>A participatory community project would be based on one memorial chosen for each district and linked with the Big Draw. Family memories would be linked with photographs and artefacts. Artworks created would then be displayed at Rufford Gallery and local libraries.</p>	30 Sept – 16 Nov 2014	Arts Service – Rufford Gallery
<p><b>The Second Minute – touring play by Andy Barrett</b> produced by Nottingham Playhouse touring to village halls.</p> <p>A play based on the First World War letter collection from the Archive of the Sherwood Foresters. The piece focuses on the stories of three men.</p> <p>“the second minute is a simply told and moving meditation of the experiences of the First World War, the lost art of letter writing and how hundreds of thousands of small scraps of paper survived the mud and slaughter to return to the homes of those that did not.”</p>	Spring 2014	Arts Service – Village Ventures
<p><b>War Memorials – Survey and Restoration</b></p> <p>Completion of the survey of all external memorials in Nottinghamshire and the restoration of the top 10.</p>	2014	Conservation and LIS Scheme
<p><b>Warhorse – Film showings</b></p> <p>Film screening at 4 libraries of the 2011 film adaptation of author Michael Morpurgo's 1982 children's book. Directed by Steven Spielberg.</p>	Autumn 2014	Libraries

Area of work	Date	Lead Service
<p><b>War Poetry</b> at The Southwell Poetry Festival 2014</p> <p>Sessions in libraries around the county on war poetry and writing workshops which may link to touring play based on Sherwood Forester letters. There would also be sessions on the online Poetry Archive and work with schools.</p>	<p>July 2014</p> <p>June to December 2014</p>	<p>Libraries</p>
<p><b>Nottinghamshire Roll of Honour</b></p> <p>Public launch and promotion of the online roll of honour following research by Trent to Trenches volunteers into memorials across the County and Nottingham City.</p>	<p>Autumn 2014</p> <p>Possible launch at Armed Forces Day</p>	<p>County Council (Web Team / IT / LIS)</p>
<p><b>Turning Back the Pages on Nottinghamshire in World War One</b></p> <p>A special pictorial publication utilising photographs, memorabilia and manuscripts from Nottinghamshire Libraries and Archives.</p>	<p>August 2014</p>	<p>Libraries and Archives</p>
<p><b>Wakefield research collection on World War One memorials</b></p> <p>Project to list, preserve and promote this unique record of war memorials that contain names of Nottinghamshire and East Midlands soldiers who died in World War One.</p> <p>NB - Subject to a Heritage Lottery Fund bid.</p>	<p>April 2013 onwards</p>	<p>Archives</p>
<p><b>Trent to Trenches – Nottinghamshire in the Great War</b></p> <p>This is a volunteer led partnership project supported by the County Council and Nottingham City Council.</p> <p>An exhibition will be held at Nottingham Castle with touring versions for County venues highlighting from research the impact World War One has had on Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>The project is developing with County Council support artefact road shows (summer 2013) including County Hall, Mansfield Central Library and Worksop Library.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Archives are supporting groups and individual researchers. The Team Manager, Archives and Local Studies, represents the County Council on this partnership.</p>	<p>August – November 2014</p>	<p>Libraries and Archives</p>

## **Other Options Considered**

10. None.

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

11. The range of activity planned and the support of the Trent to Trenches project is within the capacity and resources of the County Council.
12. In keeping with a commemorative approach, the range of activity enables the County Council to acknowledge the importance of World War One and highlight the role of Nottinghamshire and its people.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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**

14. Activity identified within this report is allowed for in service budgets, therefore there are no direct additional financial resources required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the work of the coordination group continues to ensure the County Council contributes to a fitting commemoration
- 2) the outline listing of County Council activity and support be agreed and progressed
- 3) a regular progress report is provided to the Culture Committee as the programme develops.

**Derek Higton**  
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**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (NAB 04/03/13)**

15. The Culture Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

**Financial Comments (KLA 04/03/13)**

16. The financial implications of this report are set out in paragraph 14 above.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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