

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

### **VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2020**

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

1. To consider the County Council's proposals to commemorate VE (Victory in Europe) Day 75 as outlined in Appendix A to this report.
2. To seek approval to commit up to £65,000 towards the 'VE Day 75 Commemorations' being planned and delivered during May 2020.

#### **Information**

3. The UK government announced on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 that the Early May Bank Holiday 2020 is to move from Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.
4. The 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 represents an important milestone in Europe's history, with national significance. VE DAY 75 will cover the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> of May 2020, and will be a county celebration of peace, a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the 'Golden Generation', people over 90 years old, who played such a vital part in achieving this peace.
5. This includes the Armed Forces personnel from many countries who gave their lives, and those who returned home injured body and mind; the hard-working women and men whom kept the factories, mines and farms operating throughout the years of turmoil. The police officers, doctors, nurses, firemen, local defence volunteers, ARP wardens and many others who put their lives on hold to safeguard the home front are also recognised.
6. Working in partnership with The Nottinghamshire Lieutenancy, Southwell Minster, 7 Infantry Brigade, Rufford Country Park (Parkwood Leisure) and community organisations across the county, the programme in Appendix A to this report is being developed.
7. The National commemorations will be coordinated by The Queen's pageantmaster. Activities include:
  - The playing of Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years;
  - The Nations Toast to the Heroes of WW2;

- The Cry for Peace, around the world;
  - Churches & Cathedrals ringing out for peace;
  - Street parties and parties in pubs, clubs and hotels, on town and village greens and in halls; and
  - Services commemorating and celebrating in churches, including the reading of the Tribute to the Millions and playing of the Last Post.
8. The National beneficiary charity is the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's & Families Association, SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity, which also supports the Merchant Navy. All proceeds raised by the nation will support care for all members of the Armed Forces Community and their dependents.
9. Three months after VE Day the Second World War came to an ultimate end in the far east. The County Council is working with partners to develop an appropriate commemorative programme to recognise this important event. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day will fall on 15 August 2020, and will afford the county in line with national guidance an opportunity to honour those of the 'forgotten Army' that served and the many who lost their lives.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. None

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

11. That the County Council communicates its intention to support the VE Day 75 National Anniversary with a programme of events over the Early May Bank Holiday period.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. 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**

13. The direct cost to the County Council associated with activities detailed in the report and appendix will be up to £65,000. It is anticipated that the costs will be met from the Contingency Budget. If approved, this use of contingency will be reported in the next Financial Monitoring Report submitted to Finance & Major Contracts Management Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) To agree to the development of proposals for the VE Day 75.

- 2) To make a request to Finance & Major Contracts Committee to approve up to £65,000.
- 3) That future updates on this area of work are made to the Communities and Place Committee.
- 4) That appropriate publicity be undertaken as part of the programme of events.

**Cllr Mrs Kay Cutts MBE**  
**Leader of the Council**

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#### **Constitutional Comments (KK – 13/09/2019)**

14. The proposals in the report are within the remit of the Policy Committee

#### **Financial Comments (SES – 13/09/2019)**

15. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 12 of the report. The direct cost to the County Council associated with activities detailed in the report and appendix will be up to £65,000.
16. As there is no existing budget allocation to meet these costs it is requested that Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee approve that these costs are met from contingency.

#### **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' or start list here

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

- 'All' or start list here