

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Culture Leisure & Sport Decision Meeting

Subject: D Day 70 Interreg Project

Date of meeting: 11 October 2013

Report by: Head of City Development and Cultural Services

Wards affected: All wards

Key Decision: No

Full Council Decision: No

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet Member of the successful securing of funds from the Interreg IVA programme for a series of linked activities with our twin city of Caen in relation to the 70th Anniversary of the D Day landings.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the success of the application to the Interreg IVA fund and that an update report be brought to a future Culture, Leisure & Sport meeting.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings will be a major event on both sides of the Channel, and indeed much further afield. Through our awareness of the emerging programme of activities which were being devised for the Portsmouth commemorations it became apparent that there was a desire to view the activities as the first step towards the construction of the Europe we know today.
- 3.2 The 70th Anniversary will provide a platform not only to pay tribute to the veterans and their role and sacrifice but also to view the Normandy Landings as a stepping stone towards the future and the role this battle played in the construction of a new Europe. Within such a unique opportunity it was felt important to explore the potential for collaborative activities with the City of Caen which would benefit both cities in regard to developing visitor numbers, raising the cities profiles and supporting further economic development within the context of the broader D Day Anniversary programme.

- 3.3 We were notified by the Co-ordinating Authority, the Region Haute-Normandie in the summer of 2012 that there were sufficient funds remaining in the current tranche of Interreg IVA funding for another round of bids to be considered before the end of the programme.
- 3.4 From our previous working on the MONC project (Mysteries of Our Neighbour's Culture) which was funded also by Interreg IVA funds, we had a much clearer understanding of how schemes were assessed and the levels of support needed to support any bids which went forward. As a result of conversations with Caen City Council a programme of work was developed to form the basis of a bid for the last round of funding from this stream using the learning and developments from the MONC project.
- 3.5 Overall, there are four strands to the project which are as follows:
- Public art project & mentoring scheme
 - Small scale classical concerts, commission & musicians training programme
 - City debates
 - Museums joint collaboration programme

- 3.6 Strand A: Public Art project & mentoring scheme
The Memorial museum in Caen are currently in the process of selecting an experienced artist who will be commissioned to cover their museum building with a large scale installation on a theme of the D Day landings & Battle of Normandy to be installed from May - September 2014. We wanted to offer a less experienced artist the opportunity to work alongside the Memorial's chosen artist and to then produce a new temporary artwork in Portsmouth. Additionally both artists would be asked to create a number of works which would 'wash away' in their respective cities which we will work on with the Portsmouth artist once they are selected.

The next stage of this strand for our actions will be to go through a procurement process to select an appropriate artist against a brief agreed by all parties.

- 3.7 Strand B: Small scale classical music concerts, commission & musicians training programme

One of the most successful elements of the MONC project was the music element which was co-ordinated in Portsmouth by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO). It became clear during the delivery of this project that the delivery of music education in both cities was extremely different. The Orchestre Regional de Basse-Normandie (ORBN) and the BSO have proposed a collaborative programme which will build on the strength of the BSO's education programme and their greater number of musicians.

The outcomes of this collaboration will be the commissioning of a small song cycle based on Veterans and residents memories of the D Day landings contained within the oral history collections of both the D Day and Memorial Museums. We will be seeking a school pairing who were involved in the MONC project so each can host a combined orchestras musician's residency. This will result in the performance of

the commissioned work in a suitable environment so the whole school can benefit and learn more about the D Day story. This element will also provide the musicians with a training session as both orchestras have an opportunity to learn about music provision in the different countries.

Finally the ORBN have invited the BSO to provide some additional musicians to support several performances of Karl Jenkins's work 'The Armed Man' in Normandy around the 5 - 9th June 2014. The BSO additionally have direct contact with the composer and are exploring if this is could bring added value to the project.

3.8 Strand C: City Debates

The Memorial Museum already has an active resident's debate programme where they facilitate a number of debates annually on key themes which are part of the Museums' offer. For the special anniversary year of 2014 the outline idea is to expand the programme of debates so two take place in Portsmouth, one of which is directly linked to a public event in Caen through satellite technology.

As Portsmouth currently does not have any such debate programme we are keen to see how this format can work in the city and to use the D Day commemorations to identify some themes such as the landings being the start of a New Europe and will be working to make these happen during June 2014.

3.9 Strand D: Museums Joint Collaboration Programme

The final strand of work is to establish more formal links between the D Day and the Memorial Museum and to look at the sharing of good practice especially around marketing to increase both museum's visibility on each side of the Channel. We are especially interested in exploring a wide offer which is of interest to the international visitors and offers a complete package in the footsteps of the D Day forces.

3.10 The project is still very much at an early stage of development since the announcement of the successful application in late June and the formal training programme on the scheme will take place in September 2013. At this point we will have a better understanding of the administrative processes and the levels of evidence needed to support the financial claims as well as an opportunity to apply the learning we gathered from the MONC project.

3.11 The overall total project bid was for 1,162,550€ which is split across the project partners according to their particular involvement. It is anticipated that there will be two financial claims in each financial year in order to support cash flow and we will be working closely with our financial team colleagues in order to effectively claim and provide the required level of evidence which we know will be high.

4. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this is not a change to policy or service delivery.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Subject to compliance with appropriate procurement procedures in respect of the public art collaboration there do not appear to be any legal issues raised.

6. Head of Finance's comments

6.1 The total value of this project is 1,089,200€. Portsmouth's share of this is 327,210€. The project is 50% funded by the ERDF, so the potential cost of the project is 163,605€. Project costs are offset against the staff costs (which are already budgeted). It is anticipated that the project be cost neutral. Any variations will be reported as part of the quarterly revenue monitoring.

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Signed by
Stephen Baily
Head of City Development and Cultural Services

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
None	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved / approved as amended / deferred / rejected by Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 11 October 2013.

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Signed by: Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport