

Agenda item:

**Title of meeting:** Culture Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting  
**Subject:** Update on the D-Day+Youth project  
**Date of meeting:** 13 December 2013  
**Report by:** Head of City Development and Cultural Services  
**Wards affected:** ALL

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**1. Requested by:** Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport

1.1 Author of the report is Rebecca Parrant (project partner from Pompey in the Community's Respect Programme).

**2. Purpose**

2.1 To update Members on the progress of D-Day+Youth; a D-Day Museum project funded by the Arts Council England (Renaissance Strategic Support Fund) delivered in partnership with Pompey in the Community (Respect Programme). The project commenced in April 2013 and will run until May 2014.

**3. Information Requested**

3.1 The D-Day+Youth project (named Blackout 44 by participants) is an initiative designed to immerse currently non-participating Young People in the story of D-Day with the aim of empowering and equipping them to advise on the future development of the D-Day Museum to ensure that it engages Young People in the future.

3.2 The aims of the project are:

- to Increase the involvement of young people in the Museum and ensure that it is relevant to this audience
- give young people the opportunity to gain new experiences, skills and a new confidence
- reciprocally develop the skills and expertise of the staff of the two partner organisations
- develop a long-term relationship with PITC
- be recognised nationally for the quality of our community participation and engagement

- 3.3 The project began with the recruitment of a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and drama group drawn from young people already attending PIRC Respect programmes. Both groups meet on a weekly basis.
- 3.4 YAB members have attended artefact handling training delivered by museum staff and worked with graphic designers to create logos, banners and flyers for Blackout 44. They have met D-Day Veterans and been running stands at community events, festivals and shows to share the museum collections and the D-Day story with the public.
- 3.5 The YAB has undertaken an 'access audit' of the D-Day Museum's displays and wider provision and are working with museum staff to develop their understanding of how collections are interpreted and exhibitions developed.
- 3.6 As part of the bid YAB members have the opportunity to work with a film company to create a documentary on a theme they have chosen. Titled 'The Untold Chapter', the film will explore the human aspects of war and how D-Day affected families and friends. The group has been learning how to use camera equipment and has developed questions for interviewing veterans. The film will have an official premiere in April and we also hope to make it available in the D-Day Museum theatre. The YAB are also working up ideas for the interpretation of the Landing Craft including the introduction of hands on activities.
- 3.7 Both exhibition concepts are currently on display in the D-Day Museum and YAB has invited visitors to share their feedback and comment of the plans which are underway. All feedback will be collated and adjustments made to exhibition concepts in the near future.
- 3.8 The Museum's admission charge was identified as a barrier to access for young people. As part of the project we are therefore offering a D-Day Museum pass for anyone under the age of 19. This will enable young people to access the museum for free over a 12 month period and bring along up to three friends at a time. We will be monitoring the use of the pass to evaluate its use. So far we have over 70 young people signed up and hope to increase this by attending more events in January through to April.
- 3.9 The project also includes a Youth Work and Culture Customer Service Apprenticeship (NVQ Level 2). The Apprentice is responsible for supporting the development and promotion of the Blackout44 project. An example of this would be the Blackout44 Blog which tracks the progress of the project and the activities in which YAB participate. He is also developing a museum activity booklet for young people aged 9-16 years with assistance from museum staff and the YAB.
- 3.10 Several members of YAB have just visited Normandy to enable them to further their understanding of this operation and the scale of the Normandy Landings. They also had the opportunity to visit museums in Caen to see how they present the D-Day

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story. Further YAB members will have the opportunity to visit Auschwitz in Poland in March 2014.

- 3.11 In addition to YAB, there is also a Drama group running on a weekly basis. Working with a drama specialist, the young people are using 'D-Day' as a stimulus to create a drama performance which is set within the D-Day Museum. This piece will also go on tour to local community venues in Portsmouth to ensure the project is shared widely and available to as many young people as possible.
- 3.12 Youth Training will be provided to enable staff to create a more welcoming environment for young people who visit the museums in Portsmouth.
- 3.13 At the end of the project we will hold a celebratory event to highlight the outcomes achieved by all the young people involved and provide an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and how the project could continue outside of project funding.

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Signed by: **Stephen Baily**  
**Head of City Development & 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:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	