

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 7 February 2014

Subject: First World War; Portsmouth Museums Centenary Programme

Report by: Head of City Development and Cultural Services

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update Members on the First World War Centenary plans pertaining to recipients of the Victoria Cross and the special viewing planned for the *Lest We Forget* exhibition at Portsmouth City Museum.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Portsmouth Museums' First World War Project Coordinator establishes a small working group, including external partners, to develop the proposal for the commemoration of Victoria Cross recipients including liaison with the Department for Communities and Local Government.**
- 2.2 **That the working group, also assess the feasibility for the recognition of an additional four recipients of the Victoria Cross who, although not born in Portsmouth, had strong connections with the city.**
- 2.3 **That the First World War Project Coordinator arranges a special preview of the Lest We Forget Exhibition on the 4th August 2014 as part of the commemorative events planned for this day to recognise the community contribution to the Centenary.**

3. Background

- 3.1 2014 marks 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War. One hundred years on, we are all connected to the First World War, either through our own family history the heritage of our local communities or because of its long-term impact on society and the world we live in today.
- 3.2 Portsmouth Museums Service is a member of the First World War Centenary Partnership, led by the Imperial War Museum. The partnership will present a global

programme of cultural events and activities from 2014-2018 to commemorate the centenary.

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/centenary/partnership>

- 3.3 On November 13TH 2013, as part of the First World War Centenary Commemoration programme, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, announced the design of the paving stone to commemorate recipients of the Victoria Cross during the First World War
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winner-of-first-world-war-victoria-cross-paving-stone-design-competition-unveiled>
- 3.4 Stones will be set within the 400 communities where the Victoria Cross recipients were born.
- 3.5 Portsmouth was the birthplace of four recipients of the Victoria Cross. A further four men with strong local ties were also awarded the Victoria Cross.
- 3.6 The Heritage Lottery Fund has also awarded Portsmouth Museums Service a grant of £97,000 for Lest We Forget - a community project which will commemorate the anniversary of the start of the First World War.
- 3.7 The starting point for this project is the people who took part at home and overseas, whose stories are represented by the museum and archive collections.
- 3.8 The Lest We Forget Exhibition will open in Portsmouth City Museum on the 19th July 2014 and run to the 25th January 2015.
- 3.9 A Project Coordinator has been appointed by Portsmouth City Museums to deliver the project.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 Over 6,000 people from Portsmouth were killed during the conflict and a further 18,000 wounded.
- 4.2 With over 24,000 casualties, this represents about 40% of Portsmouth men of military age. Over 10%, therefore, were killed and the impact on the city as a whole must have been immense. We should remember them.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendation does not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 No specific legal comment.

7. Finance Comments

7.1 The proposals contained within the recommendations in this report will be funded from the Heritage Lottery grant of £97,400 awarded for the Lest We Forget project.

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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
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	http://www.cwgc.org/
Portsmouth World War One Heroes James Daly	Publication

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 7 February 2014.

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Signed by:
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport