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(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Culture Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Subject: Update on the D-Day 75 community project

Date of meeting: 15 March 2019

Report by: Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by

1.1 Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport of the progress of The D-Day Story's D-Day 75 Community Project.

3. Information Requested

- 3.1 As part of the Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Transforming the D-Day Museum', the D-Day 75 Community Project aims to support community groups seeking to uncover, record and share their area's D-Day heritage. It includes training on using sources, advice on how to use their findings, and how to interpret them for others. The group's final outputs will be presented to the public at the commemoration events in June.
- 3.2 The outputs that the groups are working towards range from a group creating a theatre performance inspired by our collection of D-Day letters, whilst another group will be decorating sarees inspired by their research into the Women's Royal Navy and Women's Royal Indian Navy.
- 3.3 The communities that the project aims to connect with are groups that are harder to reach, such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and communities in isolation.
- 3.4 The museum are currently working with seven community groups that range from a theatre group who work with disabled individuals, a council run elderly community group who experience social isolation on a daily basis and a BAME meet up group.

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- 3.5 Each group was invited to the museum, given a tour and decided on a research topic. The topics have a personal connection for each group. We meet with the groups monthly to research their topic using our collections.
- 3.6 We have also organised research visits outside of the museum and the group's community centres to places such as the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the National Army Museum in London and Southwick House.
- 3.7 Taking community groups out of their community centres to research will be really beneficial in helping to combat their isolation. The Heritage Lottery Funding has given us the ability to pay for and organise transport for the groups, which has taken some of the anxiety out of the visits, which might otherwise prevent members attending them, especially those with disabilities.
- 3.8 Joint community group events have featured free talks on research. The feedback from these sessions has suggested that it has widened the community group's knowledge of what collections and historical materials are easily accessible to them within their own city and outside of it.
- 3.9 Bringing archive material out of the museum and into the community has increased access to our collections and allowed those who would not normally research with us or access this material to see these collections and connect with heritage.
- 3.10 Over the next few months, all the groups will be researching and building up towards their final outcome. The project will come to an end in June as each group will have the opportunity to showcase the results of their research as part of the commemoration events. This has given each group a focus and they are all very excited to be a part of the events in June.
- 3.11 The outcomes for the project will focus around enhancing research skills, promoting learning and instilling confidence within the local community. In regards to our collections, an additional outcome will be the increased access and knowledge of how to access the collections and other city research facilities such as the History Centre. We have already started to see these outcomes being met.

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Signed by
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services



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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