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| Title of meeting: | Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting |
| Date of meeting: | 25 th March 2019 |
| Subject: | D-Day 75 th Anniversary |
| Report by: | Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Key decision: | No |
| Full Council decision: | No |

1. Purpose of report

To outline the plans for the programme of activities around the D-Day 75th Anniversary and to reflect on the breadth of programme and benefits this will bring to the City of Portsmouth

2. Recommendations

To agree to the outline programme for the D-Day 75 Anniversary events and to authorise officers to continue to work with external partners such as the MOD to deliver and support the commemorative events.

3. Background

- 3.1 This June marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the Battle for Normandy that took place from 6th June to 21st August 1944. The city of Portsmouth played a key role in this aspect of World War 2 including function as the primary naval base, as an embarkation point for troops and as a city where the wounded were treated as they were returned to Britain.
- 3.2 It is appropriate and necessary that Portsmouth will be the focal point of the UK commemorations and will host the UK national event on Wednesday 5th June. The events and activities being arranged and organised for the city reflect Portsmouth's role in the largest military amphibious operation ever undertaken and the need to commemorate those who gave their lives as well as providing the nation with the opportunity to say thank you to the few remaining veterans on what we anticipate will be the last significant D-Day anniversary.
- 3.3 The theme of the activities from 5th - 9th June is Remembrance, Reflection and Reconciliation and we are keen to ensure that the events both leading up to and during this core time are relevant to 21st century audiences.
- 3.4 Alongside the physical side of the transformation of the D-Day Story following its reopening after the work through the successful Heritage Lottery grant, we wish to

create a national profile for Portsmouth as the '*Heart of D-Day 75*' through the activities and events which take place. This has already commenced through the launch of the disruptive marketing campaign and the Solider of Sacrifice along with the launch of the D-Day 75 branding which is complimentary to the branding used for the D-Day Story. This will enable the intrinsic link between the commemorations, the D-Day Story offer and the legacy programme to be clear to the general public.

- 3.5 The projects that form part of the HLF Activity Plan were designed to connect with organisations nationally and internationally specifically to encourage a wider range of people to engage with their D-Day heritage from their family histories to specialist textile workshops. Details of this programme of activity were discussed at the Culture, Leisure & Sport meeting on 20th July 2018 and a revised update on these activities is contained in Appendix A.
- 3.6 Work on the installation of the Landing Craft Tank 7074 has also been subject to previous reports and briefing papers through Culture, Leisure & Sport meetings the most recent of which was at the 15th March meeting. Work on the LCT site will start during 2019 and we continue to have a productive relationship with our partner organisation the National Museum of the Royal Navy. Daniel Jessop has recently taken up his role as the LCT Community Participation Officer and is beginning to shape and form the activity programme in regards to this installation.
- 3.7 We are keen to ensure that the prize winning Guide book and Gustav the Pigeon children's toy are also strongly featured through a range of specialist merchandise which the D-Day Story are developing both to support the museum offer but also to tell the broader story in a captivating way which directly engages the public through the commemorations. D-Day Story will ensure that it is able to maximise the return it can get from the international focus it anticipates at the beginning of June.
- 3.8 As well as the broad range of commemorative activities Portsmouth City Council is undertaking a number of other projects to enhance the visitor experience to the city and further support the Visitor Economy. At Portsmouth City Council's instigation local artist Karl Rudziak is painting a new portrait of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, the allied naval commander on D-Day. Admiral Ramsay is perhaps the least known of the allied commanders, but played a crucial role in getting the allied armies ashore on D-Day. Karl Rudziak has a studio at the Hotwalls studios. His work was featured in the Royal Academy's summer exhibition in 2018 and is represented in Portsmouth Museums' collections. He also painted a portrait of veteran John Jenkins for Portsmouth Football Club.
- 3.9 Additionally we currently anticipate that South Western Railway will be undertaking a specialist train naming ceremony at Portsmouth Harbour as part of the D-Day 75th anniversary and they will be announcing fuller details on this in the near future. As part of a new partnership with South Western Railway we have also had over 100 free D-Day Story posters put out across their network (which has provide us with in-kind support to a value of over £50,000).

- 3.10 As part of the background to the commemorations we are undertaking a range of enhanced planting and decorative improvements to the immediate surrounds of the seafront area where the activities will be taking place. This will include a reflection of the five D-Day beach landings through Brian Kidd Way
- 3.11 All relevant materials from Portsmouth History Centre archive will be available to view at the D-Day Story. In addition they will be hosting a small display of what was being planned for Portsmouth around housing and redevelopment which showed an anticipated positive outcome to the Landings. All Library book displays and Reading Group material will also highlight relevant material during the focus period.
- 3.12 In order to support the activities programme we are introducing a D-Day 75 volunteers programme which is being co-ordinated by Laura Weston, who has a wide experience of working with volunteers through her existing Conan Doyle volunteers work. Her work on the D-Day 75 project will include supporting and processing applications, operating a training programme as well as supporting the volunteers through the delivery of the events programme.
- 3.13 The national focus will be on Portsmouth on Wednesday 5th June where we will be the hub of the UK commemorations working in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and the Royal British Legion. The focus will be to support both D-Day and other World War 2 veterans who wish to be part of the commemorations and national focus.
- 3.14 Portsmouth International Port will be providing support to the Royal British Legion to create a welcoming and vibrant location for veterans who will be departing Portsmouth on the specially organised Fred Olsen sailing of the cruise ship Boudicca to Normandy on Wednesday 5th and again providing a suitable reception for their return on Saturday 8th June. Additionally they will also work with Brittany Ferries to co-ordinate appropriate commemorations for other veteran groups who are travelling over to France.
- 3.15 Currently we are continuing to seek sponsorship funding to support the overarching events programme in Portsmouth but key to this, and essential to the support of the Education and Legacy aim for the activities, is that 5% of any sponsorship achieved will be donated to the D-Day Museum Trust to help keep the veteran's stories alive after this final act of remembrance.
- 3.16 The D-Day Museum Trust have also launched a specific campaign to help raise funds for an ongoing education programme through the creation of a memorial wall on which the names of those who took part, regardless of nationality and arm of service, can be recorded. Families and friends of those who took part in the campaign are invited to commission the engraving and installation of a brick bearing the name and unit of the person they wish to honour and remember.

3.17 We are currently awaiting information on the range and form of commemorations which will be taking place in Normandy but anticipate that we will have screenings of the events, where practical, onto Southsea Common during Thursday 6th June to mark the day the troops landed on the Normandy coast. Currently we are unclear where the main international ceremony will take place but know that our twin city of Caen has issued an invitation to the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth to attend the commemorative activities they will be hosting.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 The D-Day landings mark an important strategic role the City of Portsmouth played in this critical period of World War 2. As the landings are passing out of living memory it is important to mark the sacrifices made by those who took part and to appropriately ensure that the few remaining veterans have an opportunity to mark such a significant anniversary.

4.2 The recently transformed D-Day Story provides a focus for projects and events both in the lead up to the anniversary and beyond with funding through their Heritage Lottery application to support and reach a wide audience.

4.3 Our ambition through the support and delivery of any such programme will be to enable Portsmouth to be at the centre of the UK's commemorations for 2019 and to be the hub for the study of D-Day as part of the Education and Legacy.

4.4 We will also be seeking to use the delivery of this broader programme of activities as a mechanism through which we can further disseminate both the Portsmouth branding for D-Day 75 and the D-Day Story which are intrinsically linked using the vibrant yellow and black palette.

5. Equality impact assessment

5.1 A preliminary equality impact assessment is attached.

6. Legal implications

6.1 It will be necessary for officers to continue to work along with the principal delivery partners for the events to ensure that:

- each partner's specific programme delivery roles and responsibilities are clearly understood, co-ordinated and agreed;
- satisfactory arrangements are in place to secure the safety and security of all participants in the events, event support staff and contractors and the general public attending;
- all necessary public liability and other required insurances are in place; and
- all necessary statutory consents, licences, permits and orders (e.g. traffic management orders) are in place in good time.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 The programme of activities detailed in this report will be delivered within approved budget resources.

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

Appendices:

Appendix A: D-Day 75th Anniversary Schedule of Activities

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 |
|--|---|
| The D-Day Story & D-Day 75 th Anniversary CL&S Decision meeting 20 th July 2018 | CL&S Decision Meeting 20 July 2018 |
| Update on the D-Day 75 Community Project CL&S decision meeting 15 th March 2019 | CL&S Decision Meeting 15 March 2019 |
| Textiles Projects at the D-Day Story CL&S Decision meeting 15 th March 2019 | CL&S Decision Meeting 15 March 2019 |

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

Appendix A: D-Day 75th Anniversary Schedule of Activities

Events due to take place on Southsea common unless otherwise specified.

4th - 7th June:

- Frigate and Destroyer tours for local schools and colleges 6x groups of 30 per day (Trafalgar Gate)

Wednesday 5 June:

- The national commemorative event will take place on Southsea Common

Thursday 6 June:

- 8am: Awaking the city / 'We knew something was happening': Following the WW2 boards that will be placed around the city from the 6th May we are looking to commemorate the lives of 119 men from Portsmouth who lost their lives between D-Day and the end of operation overlord. An element of the project involves re-enactors marching through the streets of Portsmouth based on the embarkation routes from 1944. We also currently have support from 7 local schools on the embarkation routes who will be playing sombre 1940's music and the MOD are providing a Piper to play at the Pier, this end of the march.
- 11am The D-Day 75 Remembrance Service held at the D-Day Stone in Southsea, opposite South Parade Pier.
- All day - Live coverage on the big screen on Southsea Common of events in Normandy. Events will include an inauguration at the site of the Normandy Memorial Trust's British Normandy Memorial and The Royal British Legion's services at Bayeux Cathedral and Bayeux Cemetery.

Friday 7 June:

- 10.30.-11.30 - Portsmouth Music Hub performing a special composition for D-Day 75 (Southsea Common). 600 children to perform 3pieces of music
- Military Static concert band 40 players
- 18.00 - 18.45: Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performing a special composition for D-Day 75, written by composer James Olsen for a specially formed young person's choir, inspired by the reminiscences of D-Day Veterans and the D-Day Story (Southsea Common)
- 19.00: Evening - children's film screening on big screen on Southsea Common, which will be voted for by the pubic (Southsea Common)

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June:

- All day - The Portsmouth Revival. A weekend of entertainment and activities for all the family featuring music and dancing from the 1940s, arena displays, military and vintage vehicles, exhibitions and displays, a 1940s vintage market, archive and war film screenings (Southsea Common)

- Main stage: community performances.
- Arena: Unarmed combat displays, Royal marines marching band & RAF Working dogs
- Saturday 19.30: Sunset Concert for Heroes - A free 1940s themed concert featuring the Portsmouth Military Wives Choir, the D-Day Darlings and The Royal Marines Association

Throughout the week

- There will be traders, bars, caterers, charities and 1940's fairground rides onsite throughout events.
- The D-Day Story will be open every day from 10am to 5.30pm (last entry at 5pm)
- The Last of the Tide Exhibition at Portsmouth Museum, open 10am-5.30pm (last entry at 5pm). An exhibition featuring portraits of D-Day veterans commissioned by HRH the Prince of Wales, on loan from the Royal Collections Trust.