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

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Subject:	Update on Memorial for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Date of meeting:	3 October 2023
Report by:	Stephen Baily, Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services
Report Author:	James Daly, Cultural Development and Projects Officer
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by Councillor Pitt, Leader of the City Council and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on progress working towards a memorial for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, subsequent to the Notice of Motion that was adopted at Full Council on 11 October 2022.

3. Information Requested

- 3.1 At the Full Council meeting on 11 October 2022 Portsmouth City Council adopted a Notice of Motion for a Memorial Statue for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth.
- 3.2 The Queen visited Portsmouth many times. The city clearly played a significant part in her reign and Portsmouth has always had very strong links with the crown. The city's commemoration of the late Queen's reign has to work for residents and for visitors, enhance the public realm, and be of a significant quality to match other statuary in the city. It also needs to be sensitive to the policy and wishes of the Royal Family.
- 3.3 The Government and the Royal Family have recently announced the formation of the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Committee. Chaired by Lord Janvrin, the Committee will be an independent body responsible for considering and recommending proposals for a memorial to Queen Elizabeth II. It will be jointly supported by the UK Government and the Royal Household. The Committee will also develop proposals for a national legacy programme that will allow everyone in the UK to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's life of service.



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- 3.4 It is considered that approval for any memorial in any form would be required from the Royal Family, and would also be sensible in terms of any potential unveiling or inauguration. Any announcement around a national memorial will also need to be taken into account.
- 3.5 The Lord Lieutenant has advised that we should consider a statue in 'slow time' and that there is no immediacy for royal statues to be erected. The Queen Mother died in 2002 and her statue on the Mall by Philip Jackson was unveiled in 2009. It is also recognised there will be significant public interest in the matter.
- 3.6 PCC has a Monuments and Memorial Policy that outlines our process for approving new memorials. The policy has the following criteria for considering new memorials - a strong link between the chosen site and the person, a clear justification that a memorial is more fitting than any alternative, a period of 10 years must have elapsed since the person's death, that a memorial should not detract from and should enhance the proposed site, the memorial will be meaningful for lasting generations and the memorial should be undertaken by an approved contractor. It is considered that any proposed memorial to Queen Elizabeth II would justify waiving of the 10 year waiting period.
- 3.7 Erecting a memorial to the late Queen is an important decision that will require time. A new statue may take more than 5 years considering the time required for consultation, commissioning, making and installation. There are currently very few statues of Her Majesty as it is not usual to commission statues of a person during their lifetime. There is an equestrian statue in Windsor Great Park by Philip Jackson which was dedicated in 2003. So far York Minster is believed to be the only place to have installed a statue, but this was to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and not her passing. Other local authorities including Stoke-on-Trent, Rutland and London are in various stages of consultation.
- 3.8 Considering the overwhelmingly positive response to major royal occasions in the city and the depth of feeling expressed at the late Queen's passing, we consider that a significant proportion of residents will be in favour of a memorial.
- 3.9 The majority of the existing statues in Portsmouth are either listed or have the potential to be listed in time. Existing sculptors whose work is visible in Portsmouth includes Alfred Drury (Queen Victoria), Charles Sergeant Jagger (Cenotaph), Frederick Brook Hitch (Admiral Lord Nelson), Vivien Mallock (Field Marshal Montgomery and The D-Day Soldier), Philip Jackson (The Yomper and St John the Evangelist) and Martin Jennings (Charles Dickens). It is considered that any memorial to the late Queen should aim to be of a similar high standard.

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- 3.10 The design of the statue will have a major impact on how it will be remembered by the present generation and regarded by future generations. Nobody living in Portsmouth now was alive when the statue of Queen Victoria was unveiled. The design will also impact on visitors' views of the city.
- 3.11 The form of the statue needs to be considered. Her Majesty's love of horses raises the potential for an equestrian statue, and Corgis may also be a consideration. Dress also needs to be considered. The Queen Victoria statue, for example, depicts her wearing garter robes and holding an orb and sceptre. The age at which the Queen should be depicted also needs to be given thought - the proposed statue in Stoke-on-Trent will depict the Queen during a visit to the town in 1973. Although our existing statues are all in a realist style, there may be interest in a more artistic interpretation.
- 3.12 Statues that are of poor quality, for example a poor likeness, generate adverse publicity. Given the importance of the subject and Portsmouth's links with the crown this needs to be avoided. Given the gravity of the subject it is considered that it would be advisable to take time to develop a fitting tribute.
- 3.13 Although no locations have as yet been considered, a number of factors will need to be borne in mind. It will need to be in a prominent location deserving of its stature, and where it can be viewed and admired. Locations such as Guildhall Square are commonly used for events and the implications of a new installation will need to be assessed. Any new statue will also require planning permission, and depending on the chosen location will also require listed building or conservation area consent, or scheduled monument consent.
- 3.14 It may be considered that a creative process should be implemented, which could include an advisory panel and a creative competition. An initial call for proposals could be used to produce a final shortlist of three, which could then go to a public vote. Whatever the process any chosen artists would require a brief. It may also be advisable to consider alternatives to a statue. The Elizabeth Line on the London Underground, for example, will be a lasting tribute.
- 3.15 It is suggested that once further progress can be made a working group is formed to include members, community representatives and creatives that could oversee fundraising, consultation, selecting a site, developing a brief and commissioning an artist. It is also suggested that the Council, through the Lord Mayor, should make contact with the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Committee.
- 3.16 The cost of statues can vary widely depending on the chosen artist, material, size and other factors. A new statue will also have a cost and maintenance implication for the City Council in terms of cleaning and maintenance. Care of monuments and memorials is included in the Resources portfolio budget.



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- 3.17 Although public subscription has previously been a source of funding for many statues in the city, the current economic situation will impact people's ability to contribute. Other sources of income generation could include corporate giving, philanthropy and a reward based model. For example, the statue in Stoke-on-Trent is to be funded by the sale of a number of maquettes of the finished statue.
- 3.18 It is proposed that as progress will be limited until a policy announcement is forthcoming, fundraising effort is first focused on delivering the city's Covid Memorial, to avoid asking members of the public to support more than one memorial project at the same time.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

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