

Title of meeting:	Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting
Date of meeting:	16 February 2023
Subject:	D-Day 80 Portsmouth Events & Museum Service Activities
Report by:	Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Pitt, Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Economic Development.
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development of the programme of activity for D-Day 80 Portsmouth.

2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member agrees the outline programme of events and activity for the D-Day 80 Portsmouth events and activities and authorise officers to continue to work with external partners such as the MOD to deliver, support and publicise the commemorative events and activities.

3. Background

3.1 2024 will be a turning point in history as we mark the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings on 6 June, 1944. As veterans of the Second World War pass away it becomes even more important that we find ways to ensure their stories and experiences are kept alive. The baton must pass from the veterans to the younger generation. The main aim of all of our events and activities is to honour the veterans and inform as many of the general public as possible, thereby keeping their stories alive.

3.2 The D-Day Story is the only museum in the UK which is dedicated solely to telling the story of the D-Day Landings. The museum will only increase its significance as time passes as a custodian of unique collections and stories that must never be forgotten. The museum service is working with a variety of partners

and sponsors to place the museum in a central position, increase visitor numbers and raise its profile with activities running throughout the year of 2024.

- 3.3** One of the most poignant requests from veterans is that their stories are not forgotten and are passed down through younger generations. A key focus of our ambitious D-Day 80 planning is to secure funding for 10,000 plus primary and secondary school children (and other groups such as cadets and scouts) to participate in a learning experience at the museum. This is an impactful programme which will run through 2024 and 2025. We are delighted to have already secured £21,000 in sponsorship from BAE Systems and Portsmouth Grammar School to enable the first 600 children to visit the D-Day Story in February. The sponsorship covers all costs including coach travel, breaking down barriers to participation.
- 3.4** To ensure extensive public visibility across Portsmouth and beyond in 2024 we are creating pop-up D-Day 80 museums which can be adapted to fit into our libraries and other spaces such as retail centres and even on cross-channel ferries. The number of pop-ups we create will depend on sponsorship/ funding. We have already created the first one, which will be situated in Cosham Library- and features local D-Day related stories. We are also developing a display to be situated in Southsea Castle to engage its over 100,000 annual visitors with the D-Day Story Museum and D-Day 80.
- 3.5** D-Day in 80 Objects is a national partnership, conceived by and being led by the Portsmouth Museums service. The National Museum of the Royal Navy, The RAF Museum, The National Army Museum and the Imperial War Museum have all agreed to work with us to curate a selection of 80 objects from across our collections which represent D-Day. This list of 80 objects will be publicised across all of our social media channels (one a day in the 80-day run up to the 6 June), and also used in a publication. The aim of the project is to reach as wide an audience as possible, and we are aiming to formalise discussions with regional and national media partners with this in mind.
- 3.6** A group of 28 towns and villages covering part of Gold Beach in Normandy and further inland (known as Seulle Terre et Mer) will display graphic panels featuring images of the Overlord Embroidery at Asnelles, Gold Beach.
- 3.7** The Spirit of Normandy Trust will be bringing up to 14 Normandy veterans to The D-Day Story on 3/6/2024 to meet (at different times during the day) specially invited schoolchildren and museum visitors, as well as answering questions online in a livestream. Due to the advanced age of the veterans, this could end up being the largest gathering of Normandy veterans that the public can interact with, that there will ever be in the future in the UK.
- 3.8** In May 2024 we will be holding a conference at The D-Day Story in partnership with the Naval Dockyards Society, on naval and dockyard contributions to the Normandy campaign.

3.9 To ensure we continue to maximise the opportunity presented by D-Day 80 for the city and the museum throughout 2024 we are planning a number of art related projects. With the support of members of the Overlord Embroidery Trust we will be launching a D-Day inspired textile competition aimed at college students in September 2024. We are also discussing working with the "We Shine" festival (Portsmouth Creates) to illuminate the LCT 7074 and run a series of D-Day footage projections onto the museum building in the darker months.

3.10 National Commemorative Event

3.10.1 The MOD are planning a national commemoration which will be held in Portsmouth on 5th June 2024. The Secretary of State has confirmed that he wants a 'maximalist' approach to the D-Day80 commemorations. At this stage there has not been any indication as to what shape this will take.

3.10.2 Various site visits have been held across the city with the Head of Defence Major Events as well as various broadcast companies.

3.10.3 The MOD lead for the commemorations changed just before Christmas. Discussions will start again in the new year and the new lead officer will progress the discussions with broadcasters with a view to enter into a contract as soon as possible.

3.10.4 Commodore Voyce, Portsmouth Naval Base Commander, will lead the event from a local point of view and has already held a stakeholder meeting where plans and ideas were shared with a view to establishing a Hampshire-wide programme of events and engagement activities. The overwhelming sense from all agencies was that education should be the focus of the commemorations and whatever form it takes; it should ensure there is a legacy.

3.10.5 PCC Events Team will work closely with the MOD to ensure the success of their event. The team will then extend the commemorations to include:

- Commemorative Service at the D-Day Memorial on 6th June (working with the Royal British Legion)
- D-Day themed Armed Forces Day community event on 8th June

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 D-Day Story provides a focus for projects and events both in the lead up to the anniversary and beyond to 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 2024 and to be the hub for the study of D-Day and leave a lasting legacy.

5. **Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 Integrated Impact Assessment completed and attached at Appendix 1

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 budgets from money already put aside for D-Day 80 along with further sponsorship as is mentioned in the report.

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Integrated Impact Assessment



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 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 Economic Development