

Report of the Director of City Development

Report to Executive Board

Date: 16th July 2014

Subject: Programme for the Commemoration of the First World War

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The marking of the centenary of the First World War between 2014 and 2018 will be an opportunity to reflect on the impact this global war had on the lives of men, women and children in our city and around the world.
2. The national programme is being led by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Imperial War Museum (IWM). The national commemorative events to mark the anniversaries of significant dates will take place on 4th August 2014 - the start of the War; the first day of the Battle of the Somme – 1st July 2016; and Armistice Day 11th November 2018.
3. For the Council, the planning of the Commemoration is a very significant cross Directorate project with officers from the Chief Executive's team, Museums and Galleries, the Library and Information Service, Arts Development, Events, Parks and Countryside, Children's Services, and Corporate Communications all involved in a team which meets to plan ahead and review developments. This team is chaired by the Project Officer, Culture and Sport.
4. The role of the Council over the last two years has been to create a programme of activities as a focus for the city's marking of the Commemoration. In addition, services are supporting individuals, local communities and organisations by offering information and signposting to resources. Through a series of open seminars throughout the four years, officers will encourage and support networking across the city and foster new partnerships.

5. Through a four year programme of exhibitions, events and activities, many delivered across a range of partnerships, Leeds City Council aims to deliver a lasting legacy from the Commemoration. The programme has a strong focus on community involvement, inclusion, diversity, and an intergenerational approach. Plans are in place for the Council programme to reflect the significant dates being marked by the national programme.
6. The Commemoration in Leeds will support the City Priorities by encouraging people to engage with our cultural offer and by raising the profile of the city. Dealing sensitively and respectfully with the issues raised by this centenary, the programme will be inclusive across our communities and reflect not just on the First World War, but on broader themes of war and peace. Engaging with young people, both in schools and in their communities will be a crucial focus. The work on the Commemoration specifically delivers on the Best Council Plan priority of maximising the city's cultural impact.
7. It is intended that the partnerships with our twin cities will support any potential bid to become European Capital of Culture in 2023.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- (a) Approve the Council's programme for the Commemoration as it stands so far, as summarised in this report, and laid out in **Appendix 1**;
- (b) Endorse the partnership working outlined in the report;
- (c) Give approval for the programme to be developed over the four years of the Centenary;
- (d) Note that the Project Officer Culture and Sport will be responsible for implementation as outlined in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report outlines the programme which has been developed within Leeds City Council, in many cases in collaboration with partners across the city.
- 1.2 It sets out the principles which underpin the development of the programme and its delivery.
- 1.3 It asks for endorsement for the delivery of the Commemoration activities.
- 1.4 It asks the Executive Board to note that the programme is being delivered within current budgets only.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The national plans for the Commemoration of the Great War are being led by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The Imperial War Museum (IWM) will support and coordinate the cultural and educational responses. The IWM will be focusing on the start of the war in July 1914, the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and the end of the war including specifically its legacy and impact. The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are also key stakeholders.
- 2.2 The exhibitions and events led by Leeds Museums and Galleries and Leeds Library and Information Service will cover a range of themes, including hospitals, industries, the armed forces, literature, war and peace, the role of women, the home front and how the war affected young people and their families.
- 2.3 The city's involvement in the First World War is illustrated by the following statistics:
 - By the end of the war 82,000 Leeds men had been recruited.
 - Almost 10,000 Leeds citizens were killed during the First World War. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme in France in 1916 it is said that every street in Leeds lost one man from the Leeds Pals.
 - By the spring of 1915, 10,000 women had joined up to do benevolent work.
 - Leeds raised over £4,600,000 as the city's contribution to the War. The figure is equivalent to about £350 million at today's values.
 - Leeds was one of the major industrial centres of war work, with several munitions factories, including over 16,000 employed at Barnbow, 93% of whom were women and girls.
- 2.4 The Libraries, Arts and Heritage section of City Development is taking the lead in drawing up the Council's programme; Museums and Galleries and the Library and Information Service's activities are the focus. Parks and Countryside, who oversee war memorials, are playing a key role. The Chief Executive's team, Children's Services including Artforms and Artemis, International Relations, Arts Development and the Events team are all included in the joint planning.

- 2.5 The Council has been collaborating on the Commemoration with the University of Leeds for three years. The University is delivering 'Legacies of War' – a programme of local, regional and national significance including major research projects, commemorating and exploring different histories of the First World War and examining its historical, cultural and social legacies. The Council has been instrumental in advising the University particularly on fostering links with community groups. The University's programme and that of the Council are complementary.
- 2.6 Partnerships also include Leeds's twin cities, Lille and Siegen; arts organisations; theatres; city universities and colleges; the West Yorkshire Archives Service; local museums; churches and faith groups; Leeds Minster; the Thackray Museum; the Royal Armouries; community groups and organisations and as appropriate the armed forces, chiefly the British Legion.
- 2.7 Many organisations and cultural partners have significant programmes of their own, for example the Thackray Museum, the Royal Armouries, Leeds Grand Theatre and the City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds Minster, St John's Church and Holy Trinity Church.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Council's response to the Commemoration will be to pay tribute to the people of Leeds who gave their lives and served their country both on the home front and abroad.
- 3.2 The links with our twin cities especially Lille and its wider city-region and Siegen are being fostered. The aim is to approach the Commemoration from an international perspective; raise awareness of the twin cities and their different, shared and connected stories; showcase local/regional expertise and archives and collections across national, geographical, linguistic and social borders. International Relations hosted a visit from the Lille city region and Siegen from 23rd to the 25th September 2013 at which shared approaches and the first stages of joint projects were discussed.
- 3.3 The response to the Commemoration across the city is growing. Morley is an example of a community where volunteers are developing their own programmes in close partnership with the Council. It began in January when over 500 visitors participated in a series of oral history interviews at an event in Morley Town Hall. There were stalls showing archive material and local people brought their own mementos to showcase. A local conversation has been ignited and further events are planned throughout 2014. The project is being supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Through International Relations and in partnership with Museums and Galleries, the Library Service and the University of Leeds, Morley will be exploring a project with Siegen which will engage local schools in both towns.
- 3.4 This year has seen Phase 1 of engagement with schools, who will be creating their own teaching programmes around the First World War according to the requirements of the curriculum. Officers across Leeds Library & Information

Service, Museums & Galleries, Children's Services and Parks & Countryside have been developing training for teaching staff, preparing and sharing resources, raising awareness of the Commemoration and generating ideas for future projects. Phase 2 beginning in the Autumn term will see further work on resources and outreach and a development of communication and joint working to collate and share information and celebrate good practice.

- The website Mylearning, hosted and collated by the Museums Service carries teaching materials and information from Museums, Libraries, Artforms, Parks and Countryside and other sources as appropriate. Material is also available on the Artforms website.
- Outreach activities
- Learning and activity sessions at specific Museum sites and in the Local and Family History Library
- School Library Service information boxes
- Author visits
- Provision of workshops; for example the writing workshop to be delivered by Sir Andrew Motion in the Central Library on 22 October 2014.
- Provision of training courses for teachers to support their lesson planning.
- Seminars as appropriate to discuss the development of the city programme and to offer further teaching support
- Ensuring that the overall programme for the city will be accessible for young people and school students and by creating opportunities for schools to engage with the Commemoration.
- Fostering partnerships with specific schools where opportunities arise.
- Developing a major event for schools in June/July 2016 when the city marks the Battle of the Somme.

3.5 Examples of individual projects within schools:

Cockburn High School has received Heritage Lottery funding and will be staging a project across the whole school later in July. This will involve an exploration of the stories of fighting on the front line and the many and varied issues raised in the Commemoration.

Officers are working with staff at the Grammar School at Leeds, where they are developing a programme of activities based around the stories of the students of the school who lost their lives in the war. The Grammar School is keen to engage with schools throughout the city.

3.6 The City Council's programme is currently being undertaken within current budgets, and with a small amount of external funding only. The programme could be enhanced if more resources were to become available.

3.7 Summary of the Council programme:

(Full details are available in Appendix 1).

3.7.1 The exhibitions and events led by Leeds Museums and Galleries and the Library and Information Service will cover a range of themes, including hospitals, industries, the armed forces, literature, war and peace, the role of women, the home front and how the War affected young people and their families. Activities will be advertised on the City Council's website, specifically on the web pages of the Library Service and Museums and Galleries. The programme will cover the four years of the Commemoration and it is likely that in 2019 there will also be activities to reflect the centenary of the home coming of the armed forces, and the changes taking place at home and in Europe as a result of the war.

3.7.2 Exhibitions already running in 2014 are The Darkening Plain at Leeds Art Gallery, Love and War at the City Museum, and Dressed for Battle and Duty Calls at Lotherton Hall. The Preservative Party (the young people's group working with Museums) have designed a Facebook Timeline which reveals the group's research and invites members of the public to contribute their own stories and comments. Launched on 11th November 2013, www.facebook.com/ww1leeds, the Timeline already has over 700 likes.

The Museums' learning teams are creating a learning sessions for schools with themes such as being a child in the war, held in the school room at Armley Mills; Beyond the Trenches – at war and at home (outreach from Discovery Centre); and Coming Home – at Lotherton Hall.

The website MyLearning, managed by Museums, hosts free online, learning resources from arts, heritage and cultural organisations. A variety of First World War resources are available or in development.

3.7.3 The Library Service is beginning an Arts Council funded project relating to Gledhow Hall when it was a military hospital and will be hosting an exhibition beginning in August – Aspects and Images of Leeds. There will be a workshop for young people in the Central Library on the 22nd October 2014 delivered by Sir Andrew Motion, who is in the city for the concert and poetry evening at the University that evening to celebrate the rededication of the Brotherton Memorial.

The Library Service will host author events, talks and book displays over the four years of the Commemoration, and be the focus for family history workshops in response to the great demand from people who wish to investigate their families' stories relating to the First World War.

3.7.4 For Parks and Countryside, plans are in place to establish a memorial garden in Horsforth in collaboration with ward members and the Town Council who

are currently seeking funding for this. Work is also being undertaken to transform an area of rough pasture adjacent to Brookfield allotments and playground into a memorial park to commemorate those who gave their lives in the war from Farsley and Calverley. Officers have been working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to install signage at each cemetery in Leeds that contains war graves. Work is continuing with the CWGC to develop interpretation at Harehills and Lawnswood.

Parks and Countryside will receive commemorative paving stones from the Department for Communities and Local Government for soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War and had strong connections with Leeds. Parks and Countryside officers are leading on consulting with relatives to determine appropriate sites in the city where these paving stones can be fitted. The service has been working with Museums and Galleries to ensure that these paving stones can be used as part of a display from May to June 2016 to commemorate First World War Victoria Cross receivers.

- 3.7.5 The story of the Barnbow munitions factory, including the important contribution made by female munitions workers, will be told by Museums, Galleries, Libraries and Parks & Countryside during the Commemoration programme; through exhibitions, an education pack, within the Museums and Libraries outreach programmes and as part of the Preservative Party's exhibition planned for 2016. Images of the Barnbow munitions workers feature on the Museums and Galleries promotional leaflets for their First World War activities.
- 3.7.6 Monday 4th August – the official beginning of the Commemoration: The City Museum's But Not Forgotten exhibition will be launched to mark the first day of the Commemoration. It will take place in the Brodrick Hall of the City Museum, which will be open specially that day. The Library's Aspects and Images of War will also begin on the 4th. Officers are meeting with Leeds Minster staff to ensure that plans for the 4th August are coordinated. Officers will work with Leeds Minster and partners around the city to ensure that the people of Leeds are given the opportunity to come together to mark this important and poignant day. 11 pm on the 4th August will mark the moment when the Declaration of War was signed.
- 3.7.7 Work will continue throughout the four years of the commemoration. Key dates for the city will be July 2016, which marks the centenary of the Battle of the Somme when so many of the Leeds Pals fell in northern France. This will be marked by a major event in Leeds Town Hall, for which plans are in development. Remembrance Days during the four years will have an added poignancy and officers across the Council partnership will seek to support the events as appropriate.
- 3.7.8 The planning team will continue to develop the programme and be responsive to emerging themes and to the needs of individuals and groups.

3.8 Other city events in 2014:

- 3.8.1 West Yorkshire Centenary Commemoration – Saturday 26 July. Hosted by Leeds Minster in conjunction with the Lord Lieutenant’s office, this service is open to all. Following the service the Commemoration of the Battle of Bligny Ridge will take place in Kirkgate.
- 3.8.2 First World War in Retrospect Conference, Weetwood Hall 28 July – 1 August 2014. Speakers, including internationally renowned academics, will be leading discussions and lectures will include military topics; the role of animals in the war, the part played by sportsmen, and the music of the era. Conference organisers are working through officers of the Council to invite sixth form students or other young people with a specific interest in the Commemoration such as the Museums’ Preservative Party, to attend sections of the conference free of charge.
- 3.8.3 Otley Museums Trust - 'Legacies of War: Untold Otley Stories'. An exhibition telling stories of individuals and their families, and how the war affected them and the community. Themes include: service and loss, the home front, support for Belgian refugees, industry and women's work.
- 3.8.4 Bramley War Memorial - This is a new memorial and will be placed near the entrance to Bramley Park. Plans are being made for the dedication of the Memorial.
- 3.8.5 Many groups and individuals are planning events and activities across the city. Officers of Libraries, Arts and Heritage are maintaining a city plan which will not be complete, but will reflect many activities.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Engagement with young people will be a key focus. In partnership with the University of Leeds, we will support teachers, and create a programme which is relevant to children and young people listening to their needs and responses.
- 4.1.2 In September 2013 the Museums Service hosted a city wide seminar in the City Museum to which an open invitation was made to all individuals and organisations who were interested in Commemoration activities. Available resources were explained and a city wide plan containing more than 200 activities was drawn up from all the activities highlighted on the day. There are plans to repeat this event in the autumn of 2014.
- 4.1.3 This was followed by a specific seminar for teachers across Leeds in November 2013.
- 4.1.4 A programme of consultation is being followed by curatorial staff. As part of their partnerships with a range of organisations they are consulting on correct and recommended procedures about how to deal sensitively with issues

around the themes of war. A list of these organisations is given in the EDCI report Appendix 3.

- 4.1.5 During the development of the programme, the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the cross party Armed Forces group and appropriate lead members have been consulted and made aware of progress.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 A statement of principles is in place to illustrate the Council's approach to the delivery of its programme. See Appendix 2. The Council's response to the Commemoration will be to pay tribute to the people of Leeds who gave their lives and served their country both on the home front and abroad. The programme will have a strong focus on community involvement, inclusion, diversity, intergenerational working, and young people. Activities will be created with sensitivity and in acknowledgement of the very broad range of issues and feelings that will be engendered by the Commemoration. Partnership work across the city and with two of Leeds's twin cities, Lille and Siegen, will play a key role.

- 4.2.2 An EDCI screening report has been completed and is attached as Appendix 3. We will seek to reach specific groups and ensure that young people in particular are involved and benefit from the legacy of the Commemoration. Our aim is to encourage communities and generations across the city to engage and benefit from the programme. Consultation will form a significant element of partnership working.

- 4.2.3 Activities will be created with sensitivity and in acknowledgement of the very broad range of issues and feelings that will be engendered by the Commemoration.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The Council's First World War Commemoration programme will help build a Child Friendly City by listening to young people, encouraging them to get involved with exploring the themes of the Commemoration and by encouraging intergenerational projects.

- 4.3.2 The Commemoration will encourage people to engage with the city's cultural offer. It will raise the profile of Leeds within the national Commemoration.

- 4.3.3 By reaching out to all communities in Leeds with a wide ranging and inclusive series of event and activities, we will encourage harmonious communities and an atmosphere of respect and tolerance.

- 4.3.4 The programme for the Commemoration specifically delivers on the Best Council Plan priority of maximising the impact of our cultural infrastructure across the city.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The size and scope of the interest and engagement across Leeds will be a challenge for our services. There has been a huge interest so far.

4.4.2 Currently the City Council's programme is being delivered within current budgets or with a small amount of external funding. This model is likely to continue, although the work could be more ambitious and include increased coordination of citywide plans if additional funds were available.

Activities that could be expanded with funding include an open day to be held on 27th September 2014, which will be open to all and delivered in partnership with the University of Leeds and Yorkshire Post Newspapers - an event that will bring wide publicity to the Council's programme; and a high profile opening event for 'Oh What a Lovely War!' in October 2014 at the City Museum. This production is one of a very few being permitted during the Commemoration.

4.4.3 There is potential for making external bids to support the continuing development of the programme.

4.4.4 We will continue to work with the University of Leeds on the best approach to the coordination of activity across the city.

4.4.5 In order to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered the First World War, on 4th August, each ward is to receive £1,000 as an additional one year allocation to the MICE scheme.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report is eligible for Call In.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Council staff will be encouraged to follow the agreed principles for the development and delivery of the Commemoration programme. A focus on Council Values and usual best practice will ensure that respect and sensitivity are used when dealing with issues which may arise during the Commemoration.

4.6.2 The usual reporting and Member briefing processes will be followed to ensure that Elected Members are kept informed and included. A monthly update will be sent round to officers and lead members and the planning team will respond to requests for information as they arise.

4.6.3 Owing to the great interest in the Commemoration across the nation and the city of Leeds, which is likely to create a significant demand on staff and resources, the Council's programme will need to develop within available resources and budgets.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The shared ambition for the Council's programme is to help create an understanding about the First World War and to encourage reflection and debate about the range of themes it comprises. Through a varied programme, delivered in a wide cross sector and cross city partnership, our aim is to encourage communities and generation across the city to explore the stories of the war and come together to understand and acknowledge its impact on the world as it is today.

6 Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- (a) Approve the Council's programme for the Commemoration as it stands so far, as summarised in this report, and laid out in Appendix 1;
- (b) Endorse the partnership working outlined in the report;
- (c) Give approval for the programme to be developed over the four years of the Centenary;
- (d) Note that the Project Officer Culture and Sport will be responsible for implementation as outlined in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 N/A

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: The City Council's programme in development
- 8.2 Appendix 2: Statement of principles for the development and delivery of the programme.
- 8.3 Appendix 3: EDCI Report

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.