



Report of: Director City Development

Meeting: Executive Board

Date of meeting: 17th October 2007

SUBJECT: A Memorials' Policy

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

1.0 Purpose of This Report

- 1.1 This report recommends the adoption of a clear policy on honouring citizens of Leeds with a memorial. It proposes that a Memorial Panel be established to consider nominations for memorials, outlines the proposed nature of the memorial and suggests some of the criteria by which individuals would be selected to be honoured in this way.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 It is right that citizens of Leeds who have made a significant and lasting contribution to their city and/or to wider humanity should be remembered and honoured after their death. Officers have been considering various types of memorials from electronic devices to more traditional statues. A number of factors have been considered including possible locations for memorials, the cost of creating and maintaining them and their durability. Possible criteria for selecting individuals to be honoured in this way have also been considered.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 A number of locations were considered across the city however the city centre seems the most appropriate place giving relatively easy access to Leeds citizens and visitors who may wish to visit a memorial to pay their respects. Within the city centre Merrion Gardens was deemed to be the most appropriate location as it is itself a memorial to Thomas Wade. The City Centre Manager approached the Trustees of Wade's Charity, which owns the Gardens, to ascertain their views on this proposal. The Trustees have agreed in principle to allowing Merrion Gardens to continue its tradition of providing a memorial to worthy citizens of Leeds by becoming the focus for future memorials. They think that any addition or change to the Gardens would need to be done sensitively and

in keeping with the Gardens. They have therefore agreed that the best form for future memorials here would be a suitable inscription carved into the flagstones. This would not detract from the design or use of the Gardens, which were recently refurbished with assistance from Yorkshire Forward.

4.0 The Memorial Panel and Nominations for Memorials

4.1 It is proposed that each Group Leader nominates a member to serve on the Panel. The Trustees of Wade's Charity wish that one of their number be on the Panel so that their views might be known. It is also proposed that a member of the Civic Trust is invited to sit on the Panel, drawing on their knowledge and experience, particularly in relation to their Blue Plaques and finally relevant officers. The Panel would be chaired by the Chair of the Leeds City Centre Partnership Board.

4.2 Criteria for selecting citizens to be honored in this way would be agreed by the Memorial Panel, however it is proposed that nominations would not be considered until at least 18 months had elapsed since the nominee's death, that they had lived for a considerable period of their life in Leeds and that they had made a significant and lasting contribution to the city, its people and/or wider humanity. Ceremonies for the unveiling of the memorial would be delegated to the Lord Mayor.

5.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

5.1 There are no implications for Council Policy Governance.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that

- i) a Memorial Panel as described in paragraph 4.1 is established to agree the criteria for honouring Leeds citizens with a memorial and to consider applications for memorials; and
- ii) all memorials take the form of a suitable inscription engraved in the flagstones of Merrion Gardens.