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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET DELEGATED DECISIONS

Friday, 17 January 2025

2024/24 VE DAY/VJ DAY 80 GRANT FUND

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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet Delegated Decision

10 January 2025

TITLE:	VE Day/VJ Day 80 Grant Fund
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Bill Cawley – Portfolio Holder for Communities
CONTACT OFFICER:	Linden Vernon - Head of Democratic Services
WARDS INVOLVED:	Non-Specific

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The report presents proposals for the creation of a VE Day/VJ Day 80 grant fund.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Council establishes a VE Day/VJ Day 80 grant fund of £20,000. Grants will be available to parish and town councils in the Staffordshire Moorlands based on the size of the council (as detailed in the report).
- 2.2 That the Council uses a range of tools to promote the anniversary including the use of the Council website and social media channels.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 This year the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with Victory in Europe (VE) Day on 8 May 1945 and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on 15 August 1945. Events are being planned to mark these momentous anniversaries to ensure that the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation is always remembered.
- 3.2 It is proposed to establish a VE Day/VJ Day 80 grant fund of £20,000 to assist communities to hold their own events and activities.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that the Council uses a range of tools to promote the commemorations and community involvement for this anniversary.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

4.1 Develop a positive relationship with communities and effective relationships with strategic partners.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 That the Council creates a £20,000 grant fund as proposed in this report. (Recommended)

5.2 That the Council creates a fund of a different amount and/or creates a different mechanism for allocating the grant. (Not recommended)

5.3 That the Council does not create a VE Day/VJ Day 80 grant fund. (Not recommended)

6. Implications

6.1	<u>Community safety, including safeguarding and prevention of terrorism</u> No direct implications.
6.2	<u>Workforce</u> No direct implications.
6.3	<u>Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment</u> Commemorative events are an opportunity to bring together all sections of our community. The Council's guidelines for the grant should encourage grant recipients to think about how they can make their activities and events as inclusive as possible.
6.4	<u>Financial Considerations</u> Budget provision has been made in 2025/26 for this expenditure.
6.5	<u>Legal</u> No direct implications.
6.6	<u>Climate Change and Sustainability</u> No direct implications.

6.7	<u>Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity</u> No direct implications.
6.8	<u>Consultation</u> The grant fund will be publicised to town and parish councils.
6.9	<u>Risk Assessment</u> No significant risks have been identified. Responsibility for events and activities will rest with grant recipients.

Mark Trillo
Executive Director (Governance & Regulatory Services)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

[Royal British Legion
https://www.veday80.org.uk](https://www.veday80.org.uk)

Contact details

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7. Detail

- 7.1 This year the communities will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with Victory in Europe (VE) Day on 8 May 1945 and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on 15 August 1945. Events are being planned to mark these momentous anniversaries to ensure that the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation is always remembered.
- 7.2 The Government has so far announced that the existing early May bank holiday on 5 May will be used for commemorative events and that £10m will be available to mark them.
- 7.3 The Royal British Legion is planning for events in 2025 and aims to be in contact with those who have expressed an interest in attending these by mid-March 2025. To receive more information about these events and having an opportunity to attend a registration form is available to use on their [website](#).
- 7.4 A guide to taking part in the commemorations has also been produced by Bruno Peek, Pageantmaster, which can be downloaded at <https://www.veday80.org.uk/>.

Funding Arrangements

- 7.5 It is proposed to establish a VE Day/VJ Day 80 grant fund of £20,000 to assist communities to hold their own events and activities. Funds will be available to every parish/town council in the district.

- 7.6 A grant of £1,000 will be available for each of the three Town Councils with the balance of funds divided equally between the remaining parishes (£435 each).
- 7.7 It is proposed that parish/town councils be advised of the funds available to them for which an application form will be available for completion by town/parish clerks.
- 7.8 Councils may wish to make a joint application or the fund could be available to community groups where the town/parish council gives its support to the application. Applications would be assessed for final approval by the Portfolio Holder and must meet required criteria. The criteria will be that the grant must be used to hold an event or associated activities (open to the general public) directly related to VE Day/VJ Day 80 or for preparations leading up to a relevant event.

Promoting Community Involvement

- 7.9 It is proposed that the Council uses a range of tools to promote the commemorations and community involvement by:
- Promoting the fund to parish/town councils.
 - Creating a dedicated page on the Council's website.
 - Issuing media releases and posts on social media channels.