

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report to Cabinet

13 February 2018

TITLE:	World War One Commemoration Arrangements
PORTFOLIO:	Councillor Sybil Ralphs – Leader
OFFICER:	Mark Forrester - Democratic & Community Services Manager
WARDS:	All Wards

1. Reason for the Report:

The report presents proposals for the Council to mark the centenary of the end of World War I during 2018.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Council helps to enable parish and town councils to hold WW1 centenary events and activities to mark the ending of the war in November 2018.
- 2.2 That the Council establishes a WW1 grant budget of £20,000. Grants will be available to parish and town councils in Staffordshire Moorlands (as detailed in 7.9 and 7.10 below).
- 2.3 That the Council uses a range of tools to promote the commemorations local and national and involvement by communities including: the use of the Council website, social media, Parish Assembly and direct participation in events.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The 11th November 2018 will be marked by the centenary of the ending of World War One and the culmination of commemorative events that have taken place from 2014.
- 3.2 The Council has registered an intention to light a Beacon as part of the commemorations (location to be confirmed). The nature of the war meant that all our communities from rural villages and hamlets to town

neighbourhoods were impacted by the loss of life. It would seem appropriate therefore that the Council encourages all our communities to mark the centenary by holding beacon events and organising associated activity.

3.3 It is proposed to establish a WW1 grant budget of £20,000. Funds will be available to every parish/town council in Staffordshire Moorlands. 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 39 parishes (£435 each).

3.4 In order to qualify for a grant parishes will be asked to complete an application form. Parishes may wish to make a joint application, parishes and may elect for a local community group to organise and undertake appropriate activity in their community. Applications will be assessed by officers to check eligibility and approvals given by the Council Leader via a delegated decision.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 Develop a positive relationship with communities.

5. **Options and Analysis**

5.1 That the Council creates a £20,000 WW1 grants budget as proposed in this report. (Recommended)

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

5.3 That the Council does not create a WW1 grant budget. (Not recommended)

6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No implications

6.2 Workforce

No implications

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

WW1 impacted across our community and people from many nations. Commemorative events are an opportunity to bring together all sections of our community. The Council's guidelines for

the WW1 grant should encourage grant recipients to think about how they can make their activities and events as inclusive as possible.

6.4 Financial Considerations

This is a non recurring budget growth item.

6.5 Legal

No implications

6.6 Sustainability

No implications

6.7 Internal and External Consultation

No implications

6.8 Risk Assessment

No significant risks are identified. Responsibility for events and activities will rest with grant recipients and while the total budget is £20,000 individual grants are a maximum of £1,000.

7. **Background and Detail**

7.1 The 11th November 2018 will be marked by the centenary of the ending of World War One and the culmination of commemorative events that have taken place from 2014.

7.2 The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is leading Government plans for WWI commemorations. So far details for the following events have been published (the full programme will be announced shortly):

- The Lest We Forget Children's Concert - Saturday, 3 November 2018

This will take place at the Gentings arena, NEC Birmingham. Tickets are expected to go on sale in early in 2018.

- Battle's Over – Beacons of Light 7.00pm Sunday, 11 November 2018

More than 1,000 Beacons of Light will be lit throughout the United Kingdom followed by the ringing of church bells.

- Ceremony at Westminster Abbey – Sunday, 11 November 2018

National commemorations will end with a service that will reflect on the Centenary, recognise the impact of the war after the Armistice, and give thanks to all those who were affected over the course of the conflict.

- 7.3 The Royal British Legion also has a number of projects underway such as Every One Remembered and Centenary Fields. Further details for their campaign events during 2018 will be announced shortly. It is understood that these will be based on regional events and end in London.
- 7.4 It is anticipated that a number of activities will take place during the last 100 days of national commemorations from 8 August to 11 November 2018.
- 7.5 The Council has registered an intention to light a Beacon as part of the commemorations (location to be confirmed). A number of communities across the District have also registered their intention to light a Beacon. These currently include Cheddleton & Wetley Rocks, Dilhorne, Endon with Stanley, and Kingsley.
- 7.6 The nature of the war meant that all our communities from rural villages and hamlets to town neighbourhoods were impacted by the loss of life. A fact reflected in the many war memorials to be found in villages and parish churches as well as those in our towns. It would seem appropriate therefore that the Council encourages all our communities to mark the centenary.
- 7.7 In addition to the lighting of Beacons it is proposed that a programme of events be created in liaison with partner organisations. This could build on engagements that take place as part of the annual civic calendar. These include:
 - Armed Forces Week – w/c 25 June 2018
 - Civic Service – dates to be confirmed following election of Chairman
 - Mercian Regiment Annual Pilgrimage – July 2018
 - Merchant Navy Day – Monday, 3 September 2018
- 7.8 Additional events could include organising acts of remembrance at church services or inviting the Mercian Regiment to march in the area. Internally, fundraising days could also be held in aid of the armed forces charities.
- 7.9 It is proposed that the Council helps to enable parish/town councils to hold their own events and activities, promote civic participation or clean/repair war memorials etc. by making grants available and by signposting to other organisations which can assist such as:

- Historic England
 - Heritage Lottery Fund
 - War Memorials Trust
- 7.10 It is proposed to establish a WW1 grant budget of £20,000. Funds will be available to every parish/town council in Staffordshire Moorlands. 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 39 parish councils (£435 each).
- 7.11 It is proposed that town and parish councils be advised of the funds available to them (an application form will be available for completion). Parishes may wish to make a joint application or may want a local community group to organise and undertake appropriate activity in their community. The fund could be available to community groups where the town/parish Council gives its support to the application. Applications could be assessed by officers to ensure eligibility with a decision to award a grant being made by the Council Leader via a delegated decision.
- 7.11.1 The grant criteria will be that the grant is used to hold a beacon event on 11th November 2018 or for preparations leading up to an event on this date.
- 7.11.2 The nature of the beacon event can vary from parish to parish as appropriate to local circumstances. Beacons may be large and highly visible or small in nature and visible to a specific location, depending on local circumstances it may be appropriate to light candles within a building (for example where a war memorial is placed within a building).
- 7.11.3 The grant could pay for a beacon, for refreshments for those attending an event, for the preparation of the area to be used to light a beacon, for cleaning the local war memorial, for events and activities which are intended to culminate at the beacon event.
- 7.12 During 2018 Councillors may wish to encourage community groups to apply for grants via the Councillors' Community Initiative Fund to undertake commemorative projects.
- 7.13 It is proposed that the councils use a range of tools to promote the commemorations and involvement by communities including:
- Parish Assembly meetings
 - The creation of a dedicated page on the Council's website
 - Media releases and posts on social media channels
- 7.14 The above methods would provide access to national and local information including event programmes and sources of funding.

- 7.15 Officers will develop criteria for grant funding and design an events programme based around national commemorations and the annual civic calendar, working with a range of organisations such as the Mercian Regiment, Royal British Legion, parish/town/county councils, historic societies and local clergy.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary>

Contact details

Linden Vernon
Senior Officer – Governance and Member Support
Linden.vernon@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk
01538 395613