

## For Publication

### Commemorations Review Phase 2

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	20.07.21
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Leader
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To report on the findings of the commemorations stakeholder consultation and to make further recommendations to strengthen our approach to commemorations.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 To develop a Commemorations Policy for the Council which establishes the key principles for commemoration activity delivered or supported by Chesterfield Borough Council and to provide a single route and process for commemoration proposals submitted to the council.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 To improve access to information about current commemorations within Chesterfield Borough and to shape future plans.

#### **4.0 Report details**

- 4.1 Background

In June 2020, the Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council made a commitment, alongside the leaders of a large number of other Councils, to review the appropriateness of commemorations within Chesterfield Borough on public land including monuments, statues, plaques and street names. A commitment was also made to ask our communities who is currently missing from our commemorations and how we can ensure future commemorations provide opportunities for education and to celebrate the history of Chesterfield Borough and our diverse communities.

4.2 In January 2021 Cabinet received a report on phase 1 of the commemorations review which considered the current position regarding monuments and statues, plaques, street names, street naming and re-naming processes and other types of commemoration activity.

4.3 Phase 2 of the commemorations review was approved by Cabinet. Phase 2 focused on further public and stakeholder consultation to inform future commemoration activity and make further recommendations to improve information, policy and processes.

#### 4.4 Commemorations consultation

The commemorations consultation ran from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This was an open public consultation advertised via web, social media and media release. In addition, information about the consultation and encouragement to take part was sent directly to key groups including schools, college and the equality and diversity forum members. The questionnaire was available to complete online and via telephone.

4.5 The consultation sought views on:

- Preferred ways to commemorate and celebrate key figures, organisations, historical events and communities
- Principles for commemorations for example links to the Borough
- Gathering ideas for potential future commemorations and celebration activity
- Improving access to information about existing commemoration activity

4.6 During phase 1 of the consultation there was significant public interest, mainly generated via Chesterfield Borough Council and key media

outlets social media channels. This mainly centred around concerns around street re-naming. Despite significant coverage of the consultation across media outlets and our own channels the phase 1 interest did not translate into large numbers of respondents to the consultation.

- 4.7 The full consultation report is attached at Appendix 1. 64 people or organisations took the opportunity to respond. A summary of the consultation is detailed below:
- 79% agreed that where commemorations relate to a named individual, either their permission or in the case of a deceased person – their family or estate administrator’s permission should be obtained
  - 83% agreed that where commemorations relate to an organisation, they should be consulted, and permission obtained
  - 84% agreed that all commemoration proposals should require a research and engagement stage. This includes consultation with relevant stakeholders including statutory agencies and appropriate community and voluntary sector groups
  - 78% agreed that commemorations supported or developed by Chesterfield Borough Council should only relate to individuals, organisations or historic events with a close connection to the borough. This could be a prominent individual who was born or lived in Chesterfield Borough and/or made a significant contribution to the borough. It could also be an organisation based in the Borough making a significant contribution, our diverse Chesterfield communities, or a building of intrinsic value to the borough
  - 89% agreed that the costs and maintenance of commemorations should be at the expense of the proposer (which may be Chesterfield Borough Council itself) or external funding secured
  - The level of importance for different types of commemorations were considered with museum exhibitions scoring highest followed by blue plaques, commemorative and celebratory events, Interpretation boards in key locations and war memorials
  - 78% supported the introduction of a single route and process for commemoration proposals to be submitted to the Council
  - 68% of respondents have found information about commemorations using the Chesterfield Borough Council website. Other popular places to find information included Chesterfield Museum and their website (38%) and via Derbyshire County Council 34%

- A range of suggestions for improving access to information were submitted including more media release, social media content and Your Chesterfield content
- Over 20 individuals were suggested for future commemorations, most of whom had a clear local connection. Some key events and themes were also suggested with exhibitions and plaques being popular commemoration types

4.8 Overall, the key principles suggested as part of the consultation were well supported. Additional principles including developing enhanced research, engagement and communications plans for commemoration activity and ensuring that opportunities for commemoration are maximised in other policies, strategies and projects for example Flag Flying / building light up policies, street naming schemes, parks and open spaces investment, regeneration schemes etc would also add value and respond to the views expressed during the consultation. A commemorations policy for the whole Council would secure these principles and develop a single route and process for commemoration proposals to be submitted to the Council.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

5.1 To conclude the commemorations review at phase 1 and make no further recommendations or improvements.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

6.1 This activity contributes to the improving the quality of life for local people strand of the Council Plan.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

7.1 One of the key principles supported during the consultation was that costs and maintenance of commemorations should be at the expense of the proposer (which may be Chesterfield Borough Council itself) or via external funding sources. This will form a key part of the recommended policy development.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

8.1 The street naming legislation covering England and Wales (excluding London) is contained in:

- Section 64 and 65 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847
- Section 160 of the Public Health Act 1875
- Section 21 of the Public Health Act 1907
- Section 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925
- The Local Government Act 1972

Dependent on the commemoration subject and type there may be additional legislative considerations which would need to be considered as part of any proposal.

## 9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

9.1 Commemoration activity including schemes, events, activities, funding bids and support all require human resource commitments. These will need to be considered against other commitments and priorities as part of the decision-making process.

## 10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Being unable to secure additional funding and/ partnerships / developer agreements to enable further commemorations.	M	H	<p>Continue to encourage developers to take part in the percent for art scheme.</p> <p>Work with partners and funders to levy external funding where possible.</p> <p>Commemoration policy development which encourages creativity with existing funding streams and activities to improve commemoration, celebration and education activity.</p>	L	M

Human resource challenges to support new commemoration develop.	M	H	<p>Commemorations policy will develop a single route and process for commemoration proposals to be submitted to the Council. This will reduce duplication of resource and also ensure human resource impacts are fully assessed before committing to and engaging in activity.</p> <p>Partnership approaches will also be encouraged where possible to maximise capacity and skills are all partners.</p>	M	M
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## **11.0 Implications for consideration – Community wellbeing**

- 11.1 Development of the commemoration policy will clarify the route and process for communities and organisations to submit commemoration proposals to the Council for consideration. The policy will include a principle around developing enhanced research, engagement and communications plans for commemoration activity and ensuring that opportunities for commemoration are maximised in other policies, strategies and projects.

## **12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills**

- 12.1 The new Visitor Economy strategy will include proposals to celebrate local people in developing the Chesterfield offer. In particular place making schemes around the town and district centres will be encouraged to include references as part of the built environment to celebrate contributions made by Chesterfield's communities.

## **13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change**

13.1 Climate change considerations including the carbon footprint will need to be a key consideration in developing proposals for commemorations.

#### **14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

14.1 Past and future commemorations offer an excellent opportunity to celebrate the Borough of Chesterfield’s diverse communities. Any policy or practice change following the consultation will include development and consideration of an equality impact assessment as part of the decision-making process.

#### **Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1048</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

#### **Document information**

<b>Report author</b>
Donna Reddish – Service Director – Corporate
<b>Background documents</b>
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
Commemorations phase 1 report – Cabinet 12.01.21
<b>Appendices to the report</b>
Appendix 1 – Full Commemorations consultation report