

For publication

Commemorations Policy (LC000)

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	15.03.22
Cabinet portfolio:	Leader
Directorate:	Corporate
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To present for approval the Commemorations Policy 2022 – 2024.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Commemorations Policy is approved.
- 2.2 That the Leader is given delegated authority to approve minor amendments to the Commemorations Policy in between formal review periods.
- 2.3 That the Service Director Economic Growth and Derbyshire Building Control Partnership undertake a review of the street naming guidance to improve clarity around criteria and decision making.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To establish the key principles for commemoration activity delivered or supported by Chesterfield Borough Council and to provide a clear route for commemoration proposals to be submitted to the council.

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 In July 2021 Cabinet received a report on phase 2 (final phase) of the commemorations review which focused on further public and stakeholder consultation to inform future commemoration activity and policy. The recommendation to develop a Commemorations Policy which draws upon the key principles for commemoration activity delivered or supported by Chesterfield Borough Council and to provide a single route and process for commemoration proposals to be submitted to the Council.

4.4 Commemorations Policy

The Commemorations Policy attached at appendix 1:

- Establishes a clear scope for what is covered and not covered by the policy
- Confirms the six guiding principles the Council will use when considering requests for commemorative activity (developed via the 2021 phase 2 consultation)
- Identifies a range of opportunities to commemorate and celebrate key individuals, organisations and historical events which have helped to shape our great borough
- Provides a clear route for both Chesterfield Borough Council services and members of the public, community and voluntary sector groups, faith organisations, businesses or other public sector agencies to submit commemoration proposals

- 4.4 As this is the first Commemoration Policy developed by Chesterfield Borough Council it will run for two years initially with an annual light touch update and review via the Service Director Corporate and Leader. The

policy will be formally reviewed and updated in 2024 once we have more information and experience of using the policy and can evaluate what has worked well and where further improvement may be required.

4.5 Street naming

Derbyshire Building Control Partnership (on behalf of Chesterfield Borough Council) are responsible for all street naming and property numbering within the Chesterfield Borough Council area. The primary objective in naming streets is to facilitate easy identification of premises by, the emergency services, postal / delivery services and general visitors to the area, amongst others. All addresses form part of the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) which covers the whole of England and Wales.

4.6 Street naming for prominent individuals used to be a popular form of commemoration, however more recently this has become less frequent due to the challenges of undertaking thorough background checks around an individual's history. There may be many cases nationally where issues of concern emerge long after street naming has taken place and the process for re-naming is a controversial, lengthy and complicated legal process to complete.

4.7 Within the Commemorations Policy the recommendation is to avoid street naming for individuals apart from in exceptional circumstances. Agreement of the named person or their family or estate administrators must be obtained and a case made for the person making a significant contribution to the borough of Chesterfield or the specific area of Chesterfield where the development is.

4.8 During the course of the review we identified that the guidance used by Derbyshire Building Control Partnership, information available to the public and other stakeholders and the decision making arrangements require a refresh. We are recommending that this review takes place during 2022/23.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 None, Cabinet approved a recommendation in July 2021 to develop a Commemorations Policy.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 Key principle 4 within the Commemorations Policy is the requirement for the initial cost and ongoing maintenance of the commemorations policy to be established before a commitment is made and that this would need to be funded via the proposer or via external funding.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 7.1 Legal implications will be a key consideration as part of all commemoration activity proposals. This will be easier to co-ordinate with the single route for commemorations.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 8.1 The commemoration principles and single route for proposals will reduce duplication and wasted effort if commemorations proposals cannot meet the clear principles.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

- 9.1 The completion of the commemorations review was a key delivery milestone within the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2021/22.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

- 10.1 The policy itself is considered to be neutral from a climate change perspective. However, a climate change impact assessment will need to be undertaken for each commemoration activity to ensure that the project is not detrimental to our climate change targets and where possible can make a positive contribution through design, development and education.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

- 11.1 A pre-liminary equality impact assessment has been undertaken and identified no disproportionate negative impacts.
- 11.2 The various types of commemorations identified offer a range of opportunities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse communities.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Duplication of effort and frustration due to a lack of clear commemoration guidance and route for consideration.	M	H	Commemoration Policy developed following on from a two stage review including community consultation. Policy includes a clear scope, principles and route for submitting proposals.	L	L
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 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 development.	M	H	<p>Commemorations policy develops a single route and process for commemoration proposals to be submitted to the Council. This will reduce duplication of resources 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	L

Decision information

Key decision number	1084
Wards affected	All

Document information

Report author

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Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 – Commemorations Policy
