

Report to Executive

Agenda
Item:

A.2

Meeting Date: **30th September 2013**
Portfolio: **Finance, Governance and Resources**
Key Decision: **Yes KD.020/13**
Within Policy and Budget Framework **YES**
Public / Private **Public**

Title: **REPAIRS TO THE CENOTAPH AND OTHER WAR MEMORIALS**
Report of: **DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**
Report Number: **RD34/13**

Purpose / Summary:

This report seeks approval from the Executive to seek Council approval to proceed with the Cenotaph and other war memorials repair project and approve funding of £40,000.

Recommendations:

The Executive is asked to recommend to Council to approve the development of the project and the release of capital funding of £40,000 to be spent as detailed at paragraph 4 of the report.

Tracking

Executive:	30th September 2013
Overview and Scrutiny:	Not Applicable
Council:	Not Applicable

1. BACKGROUND

The 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War takes place in July 2014. There are also several important anniversaries relating to events in that war taking place over the next 4 years. The Cumberland and Westmorland war memorial – the Cenotaph – is located in Rickerby Park and the City Council has responsibility for maintenance.

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 It is proposed that the City Council prepare for this important anniversary by ensuring that the Cenotaph and other war memorials in Carlisle are in good condition to show due respect to the sacrifice made by so many local people. In some cases this requires major restoration work and in others only cleaning is required.

The major part of the work involves restoration work to the Cenotaph. A schedule of repair work has been prepared and this has formed the basis of a successful grant application to the War Memorials Trust. Landscaping work is also to be carried out to the area enclosed by the iron railings surrounding the Cenotaph. This work will aim to restore the landscaping to the original design by Sir Robert Lorimer dating from the opening in 1922.

The County Council have been invited to participate in the project. To date they have responded by considering restoration of the memorial suspension bridge in Rickerby Park in time for the anniversary.

Other war memorials in the city will be included as part of the project. These are;

- Stanwix war memorial
- Harraby war memorial on London Road
- Botcherby war memorial on the corner of Warwick Road / Victoria Road
- Carlisle cemetery war memorial
- Greenmarket war memorial
- Civic Centre war memorial
- Eden Bridge Gardens war memorial

The work required to these memorials includes stone repairs, restoration of lettering, re-painting of railings, re-pointing of masonry joints, landscaping work and cleaning.

In addition to the restoration work the Department of Communities and Local Government is commissioning commemorative paving stones, one for each VC recipient, to be located in their home towns. Carlisle will receive two of these stones in commemoration of Rear Admiral Edward Courtney Boyle and Lt Joseph Henry Collins. Refer to appendix one and two.

Programme

The proposed programme takes into account the need for the war memorials to be available and in good condition on Armistice Day (11th November 2013) and the preceding weekend.

Landscaping proposals are such that they can be carried out in the spring without the need for over-wintering to allow new plants to become established.

Grant award from English Heritage	21 st August 2013
Confirmation of funding requirement / Exec approval	30th September 2013
Investigation work at Cenotaph (metal detection)	by end of October 2013
Scheduling of work to smaller memorials	by end of December 2013
Repair and cleaning work to Cenotaph	March to May 2014
Repair / cleaning to smaller memorials	March to June 2014
Landscaping work at Cenotaph	April / May 2014
Other landscaping work	March to June 2014
100 th anniversary of start of WW1	28 th July 2014
Lay paving stone commemorating Rear Admiral Boyle	2015
Lay paving stone commemorating Lt Collins	2017

3. CONSULTATION

3.1 Consultation to Date

The War Memorials Trust / English Heritage

The War Memorials Trust has been approached for grant assistance with the Cenotaph project. They have approved the grant application and on 21st August awarded a sum of £27,575 to the project.

Conservation Officer

The Cenotaph is a Grade 2 listed monument. The council conservation officer has been consulted both on the cenotaph maintenance proposals and the restoration of the iron railings that took place last year.

County Council

As the Cenotaph commemorates the sacrifice of both Cumberland and Westmorland, extending beyond Carlisle, the county council were informed of the city council proposals and invited to participate in a joint project.

Access Officer

The council access officer has been consulted on the possibility of improving the access to the upper level of the monument where wreaths have traditionally been laid.

Green Spaces Manager

The landscaping work is an important part of the project which is being organised by the council green spaces team.

Royal British Legion

The local representative of the Royal British Legion, Mr Tony Parrini, has discussed the project with officers and offered the assistance of the Legion. His comments and suggestions have been noted and been given consideration.

Consultation proposed;

Finance

Communities Manager

4. Estimated Costs

Work to Cenotaph - £40k

Work to other memorials - £15k

Landscaping work - £12k

Total Costs - £67k

Less Grant from English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation of £27k

Funding requirement - £40k

5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Executive is asked to approve the Cenotaph and other war memorials repairs project and the release of funding of £40k.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

6.1 The project will contribute towards the council's heritage responsibilities and support educational and learning priorities relating to local and international history.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS:

Chief Executive's – No impact

Community Engagement – Local ex-servicemen's organisations, schools

Economic Development – Large scale anniversary events will attract visitors to Carlisle and boost local trade.

Governance – The project will help the Council to meet its legal requirements to protect heritage property

Local Environment – Will enhance local green spaces

Resources – The proposal to spend £67,000 on renovation and restoration works to the Council's war memorials will need to be added to the Capital Programme for 2013/14. As this is a new scheme, it will need to be funded from capital receipts. The Medium Term Financial Plan shows that there is a surplus balance of capital receipts anticipated by the end of 2018/19 of £522,000, and the agreement to use receipts for this scheme will reduce this figure to £462,000. There is a potential for some of the works to be grant funded pending the outcome of funding applications and any successful awards will reduce the amount required from capital receipts. hasen

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Appendices

APPENDIX ONE – Extract from Dept. of Communities and

attached to report: Local Government website 5th August 2013

**APPENDIX TWO – Victoria cross citations Rear Admiral Boyle
and Lt Collins**

Commemorative paving stones for Victoria Cross recipients

Victoria Cross recipients will be at the heart of our plans to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. Special commemorative paving stones will be laid in the home towns of all those in the United Kingdom awarded the Victoria Cross for valour ‘in the face of the enemy’ during the conflict.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has announced a national competition to design specially commissioned paving stones which will be presented to councils in the areas where those Victoria Cross recipients of the First World War were born.

The stones will provide an enduring legacy in local communities of their local heroes- a fitting tribute to mark the centenary of their extraordinary bravery and service fighting for their country. This will also enable residents to gain a greater understanding of how their area fitted into the story of the First World War.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

It is our duty to remember the British and Commonwealth troops who lost their lives fighting in the Great War and we are determined to make sure their bravery for King and Country is not forgotten.

Laying paving stones to mark these Victoria Cross heroes will ensure that there is a permanent memorial to all the fallen who fought for our country and the competition is a great way for people from all corners of the United Kingdom to get involved.

This will connect communities to their shared history, help residents understand how their area played its part in the Great War, and ensure memories of that sacrifice for British freedom and liberty are kept alive for generations to come.

APPENDIX TWO – VICTORIA CROSS CITATIONS

Boyle, Edward Courtney

Rank: Lieutenant-Commander, later Rear Admiral

Regiment/Service:

Royal Navy

Citation

Admiralty, 21st May, 1915.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant-Commander Edward Courtney Boyle, Royal Navy, for the conspicuous act of bravery specified below:

For most conspicuous bravery, in command of Submarine E. 14, when he dived his vessel under the enemy minefields and entered the Sea of Marmora on the 27th April, 1915. In spite of great navigational difficulties from strong currents, of the continual neighbourhood of hostile patrols, and of the hourly danger of attack from the enemy, he continued to operate in the narrow waters of the Straits and succeeded in sinking two Turkish gunboats and one large military transport

COLLIN, JOSEPH HENRY

Rank:

Second Lieutenant

Date of Death:

09/04/1918

Age:

24

Regiment/Service:

King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

4th Bn.

Awards:

V C

Grave Reference

III. A. 11.

Cemetery

VIEILLE-CHAPELLE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY, LACOUTURE

Additional Information:

Son of Joseph and Mary Collin, of 8, Petteril Terrace, Harraby, Carlisle.

Citation

An extract from "The London Gazette," dated 25th June, 1918, records the following:- "For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice in action. After offering a long and gallant resistance against heavy odds in the Keep held by his platoon, this officer, with only five of his men remaining, slowly withdrew in the face of superior numbers, contesting every inch of the ground. The enemy were pressing him hard with bombs and machine-gun fire from close range. Single-handed 2nd Lt. Collin attacked the machine gun and team. After firing his revolver into the enemy, he

seized a Mills grenade and threw it into the hostile team, putting the gun out of action, killing four of the team and wounding two others. Observing a second hostile machine gun firing, he took a Lewis gun, and selecting a high point of vantage on the parapet whence he could engage the gun, he, unaided, kept the enemy at bay until he fell mortally wounded. The heroic self-sacrifice of 2nd Lt. Collin was a magnificent example to all."