

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	31 July 2013
Title:	2014 Commemorations: progress and funding
Reference:	5048
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to:

- a) Provide a brief overview of progress to date with the coordination of the 2014 Commemoration programme.
- b) Recommend three key areas of focus for the use of the 2014 Commemoration funding.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. In October 2012 the Government announced that it would be supporting a series of national commemorative events to mark four key anniversaries in 2014-18, as well as a wider commemorative programme for which over £50 million has been committed. A national advisory group has been set up by Culture Secretary the Rt. Hon Maria Miller MP to oversee the delivery of the national programme, which is being led by the Imperial War Museums (IWM) and partners.
- 2.2. Hampshire County Council has committed to the delivery of a programme of commemorations in 2014 to mark both the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, in recognition of the fact that it is likely to be the last major anniversary with living links.
- 2.3. A part-time Coordinator has been seconded into a temporary role to support a Members Group who will oversee the overall delivery of the programme and ensure it remains appropriate to the commemoration theme. The Members Group consists of Councillor C Carter and Councillor D Simpson, appointed by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside.

- 2.4. On 21 February 2013 the Full Council met to agree the budget for 2013/14. At this meeting the allocation of £100,000 from the Leader's Special Grants Budget, to support commemorative initiatives was approved.

3. Progress to date

- 3.1. A programme of initiatives is under development by Hampshire County Council and partners. A detailed and co-ordinated programme of activities will be presented to the September Decision Day.
- 3.2. Contact has been established with District/Borough Councils, Parish/Town Councils, as well as other organisations engaging in the commemorations. All have been encouraged to share their outline plans. Contact will be maintained and a more detailed timeline of projects and events compiled as more information becomes available. Plans will be shared with all contacts to prevent overlaps or duplication and identify opportunities for partnership working.
- 3.3. The Members Group met on 20 March and 25 June 2013 to discuss potential use of the funding. At its most recent meeting it was suggested that funding should be allocated to support the Hampshire County Council programme of commemorations, community led initiatives and a schools engagement programme. Members were particularly keen to raise the awareness of young people and to give them the opportunity to learn what life would have been like for children living at the time.
- 3.4. A group has been established to look at school involvement in the commemorations. Membership consists of representatives from key Services (Arts and Museums, Archives, Libraries, Countryside), as well as the County Inspector/Adviser for History and the Inspector/Adviser responsible for PSHE, Citizenship, and the work that schools do to support Service Children. The group is devising a programme of schools engagement, including the development of resources and involvement in the 'Rock Challenge' performing arts initiative.

4. Budget position

- 4.1. Hampshire County Council has set aside £100,000 in 2013/14 to support commemorative initiatives. There are three proposed areas of focus for the use of this funding:
- a) *A Grant scheme to support community led projects* – initial enquiries with Parish and Town Councils in Hampshire has found that a funding stream offering grants up to £2,000 would be beneficial to assist with the delivery of community led projects. This would compliment the recently launched Heritage Lottery Fund 'First World War: then and now' grant, to fund community projects from £3,000 to £10,000.
 - b) *Funding to support the delivery of a schools engagement programme* – see paragraph 3.4.

- c) *Support for Hampshire County Council led projects* – enquiries have found a demand for funding to help deliver commemorative initiatives, particularly from those Services with expertise and strong links to WWI and D-Day, who will be planning commemorations in partnership with other organisations.

5. Budget allocation

5.1. Proposed budget breakdown

Description	Amount
Grant scheme to support community led projects	£50,000
Funding to support the delivery of a schools engagement programme	£10,000
Reserved funding to support HCC led projects	£40,000
Total	£100,000

- 5.2. If the suggested budget breakdown is endorsed, a framework for the allocation of funding to support community led projects, through a grant scheme, will be presented to the September Decision Day.
- 5.3. It is proposed that the budget to support the delivery of a schools engagement programme should include the Rock Challenge initiative. An outline of how funding could be used to support this initiative can be found in Appendix 1.

6. Impact Assessment

- 6.1. Equalities Impact Assessment: no adverse impacts identified.
- 6.2. Impact on Crime and Disorder: no adverse impacts identified.

7. Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

- 7.1. Approves the proposed budget breakdown (as indicated in 5.1).
- 7.2. Approves the proposed budget to support the delivery of a schools engagement programme, to include the Rock Challenge initiative (as set out in Appendix 1).
- 7.3. Endorses the role of the Members Group in overseeing and recommending the projects to be supported and approves a wider communication and briefing to all members on the Hampshire Commemorates programme.
- 7.4. Endorses the presentation of a further detailed report to the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee in September, prior to his subsequent Decision Day, to launch the grant scheme referred to in this report.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

Funding to support the delivery of a schools engagement programme: proposed involvement in *Rock Challenge* initiative

Initiative overview

Rock Challenge is a series of performing arts events run by the 'Be Your Best Foundation', to promote healthy life choices. Thousands of young people take part every year, and although it is a national initiative its biggest uptake is in Hampshire. In 2012, 82 secondary schools (over 5,000 participants) and 40 primary schools (over 2,000 participants) across Hampshire (including Portsmouth and Southampton) took part.

A school team decides on a theme, then creates the choreography for a five to eight minute dance-drama performance, selects and records the medley of music for their soundtrack, and designs and makes the sets and costumes.

On the designated show days, the competing schools and colleges perform to a usually sell-out audience of their peers, families and community members and their performances are judged by a panel of specialists from the performing-arts industry. In Hampshire audiences across the 12 events held in 2012 totalled over 9,500.

Feedback/research indicates that the concept works, with young people clamouring to return year after year to take part, with improved relationships with teachers at school, a reduction - or even cessation - of substance abuse by team members and a lower incidence of substance abuse generally within participating schools. Attendance rates are also boosted, as are staying-on rates into the sixth-form, and secondary schools are finding that primary school students are now adding participation in *Rock Challenge* as a factor in their school choice.

How *Rock Challenge* can be used to engage schools in the commemorations

Rock Challenge will provide a unique opportunity for school children to explore the theme of war, to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. The performance events in 2014 are scheduled for March and April. This will allow participating schools to continue to engage with the Hampshire County Council programme of commemorations throughout the rest of the year and through to 2018.

Hampshire County Council involvement in the *Rock Challenge* initiative would take the form of a contribution, up to a maximum of £6,000, to include:

- Sponsorship of the Be Your Best Foundation
- Incentives for schools to choose the theme of war/commemorations, including a limited fund for schools to bid to (to help fund props, sets and costumes), and prizes for the best primary and secondary school performances.

Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Commemorates programme will receive appropriate recognition for its contribution to the *Rock Challenge* initiative.