

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	15 JULY 2019
Heading:	INTERIM SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS: WAR MEMORIALS		
Portfolio Holder:	DEPUTY LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HEALTH AND LEISURE - COUNCILLOR TOM HOLLIS		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present interim recommendations formed by Members of Scrutiny Panel B to Cabinet as part of the ongoing scrutiny review of war memorials. This report details the interim recommendations for war memorials in relation to cleaning and restoration, funding options, and a communications plan.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet Members are recommended:

- a. To ensure the four priority war memorials identified in this report are professionally cleaned and restored in readiness for remembrance events in November 2019.
- b. To continue with the submission of a grant application to the War Memorials Trust, to secure funding for the professional cleaning and restoration work required.
- c. In conjunction with recommendation B, to immediately identify sufficient Council funding for the professional cleaning and restoration work required, should the grant application to the War Memorials Trust prove unsuccessful.
- d. To develop a communications plan ensuring the public is fully informed of the proposed cleaning and restoration works, and any other events or plans relating to the District's war memorials.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

War memorials was added as a topic for review to the Scrutiny Workplan 2019/20 in June 2019.

Due to the considerations of the Panel being time sensitive, Members felt it appropriate to present a set of interim recommendations to Cabinet at the earliest possible stage. This is to ensure that suitable cleaning and restoration work can be carried out in a timely manner, ensuring completion before remembrance events in November 2019.

Alternative Options Considered

Alternatively, interim recommendations could not be submitted to Cabinet at this time, and Scrutiny Panel B Members could wait until the scrutiny review of war memorials is fully concluded to approve and present a final set of recommendations.

Detailed Information

Recommendations

War Memorial Cleaning and Restoration

To ensure the four priority war memorials identified in this report are professionally cleaned and restored in readiness for remembrance events in November 2019.

Four of Ashfield's war memorials have been identified as high priority for cleaning and restoration works due to the state of the memorial and the extent of work needed. The works for each memorial identified below are maintenance and repairs, meaning that Listed Building Consent is not required.

Titchfield Park War Memorial, Hucknall, NG15 7LU

- Bronze staining
- Surface damage to stone
- Repointing
- Doff clean
- Microcrystalline wax
- Step readjustment

Kingsway Old Cemetery War Memorial, Kirkby – in – Ashfield, NG17 7FJ

- Damage to wall and railings
- Loss of mortar
- Cracks to memorial
- Step readjustment
- Lettering reinstatement
- Doff clean

Sutton Cemetery War Memorial, Sutton – in – Ashfield, NG17 2EL

- Staining
- Loss of lead to lettering
- Crack to marble
- Base repairs
- Remove vegetation
- Lettering repairs
- Doff clean

Huthwaite Cemetery War Memorial, Huthwaite, NG17 2NQ

- Stone discolouration
- Repointing
- Doff clean
- Microcrystalline wax

Members outlined the importance of maintaining war memorials, both in terms of heritage and community significance. Memorials that fall into disrepair can have a significant detrimental effect in the community. Members of the Panel believe that appropriate work should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity.

War Memorials Trust Grant Funding Bid

To continue with a grant application to the War Memorials Trust, to secure funding for the professional cleaning and restoration work required.

The War Memorials Trust is a charity that works to protect and conserve war memorials in the UK. The Trust provides free advice and runs grant schemes to support repair and conservation projects. Applications can be submitted to the War Memorials Trust for grant funding towards surveys, repair and restoration. Grants are made from money available to the charity at the time of an assessment round. This money comes from donations or specific grant schemes; funds may not be sufficient to meet all applications.

Decisions about which projects are awarded grants are based on need and priority of works, as assessed by a Grants Panel formed of the War Memorials Trust staff; with the War Memorials Trust's Board of Trustees having ultimate responsibility for decisions made.

The application process for grant funding, as outlined on the Trust's website, can be lengthy. The charity only funds works in-line with best conservation practice to minimise any damage to a war memorial. Care must be taken when preparing an application that proposed works are appropriate for the memorial and will not cause unnecessary damage. Furthermore, as public money provides a portion of the grant money, appropriate procurement methods are required, depending on the size and timeframe of the project. Projects will not be funded by the War Memorials Trust if they have already started or finished. Of the 166 grants awarded by the War Memorials Trust between 2018-19, the average was £4,949.

Ashfield District Council is in the process of preparing an application for grant funding from the War Memorials Trust to fund cleaning and repair works for the four priority war memorials identified in this report. The deadline for the grant bid is 31 July 2019, with a response anticipated within 6 – 8 weeks of the submission.

Following the work already undertaken in preparing the application, Members of the Panel agreed that the application to the War Memorials Trust should be submitted as planned.

Council Funding for War Memorial Work

In conjunction with recommendation B, to immediately identify sufficient Council funding for the professional cleaning and restoration work required, should the application to the War Memorials Trust prove unsuccessful.

Panel Members, with an understanding of how the grants application process works, and the potential for the application to be unsuccessful or hindered by the length of the adjudication

process, agreed that it was prudent for the Council to identify alternative funding arrangements to carry out the works.

The Panel are still awaiting final quotes for the works, however initial estimates provided to Members for the cleaning and restoration is in the region of £2,000 to £2,500 per memorial.

Communications

To develop a communications plan ensuring the public is fully informed of the proposed cleaning and restoration works, and any other events or plans relating to the District's war memorials.

Members of Scrutiny Panel B recognised the importance for there to be clear lines of communication between the Council, the public, and interested groups, setting out clear timelines and plans of work to be undertaken, alongside opportunities for engagement and community involvement going forward.

This recommendation is for the Council's Place and Communities Team to work collaboratively with the Corporate Communications Team to ensure that appropriate dissemination of all information regarding war memorials is managed effectively.

This should include details of:

- Cleaning and restoration
- Work timescales
- Events
- Guidance and advice regarding involvement

Review Next Steps

Although interim recommendations have been made to Cabinet due to pressing timescales, the Panel will continue to review war memorials in more detail. This will include engaging local community groups, site visits and the development of a longer term war memorial protocol.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The scrutiny review of war memorials is focussed on the following Corporate Plan Priority areas:

- Place and Economic Growth
- Communities and Growth

This includes recognising, promoting, and enhancing Ashfield's cultural and historic environment, engaging communities, and a cleaner environment.

Legal:

There are no legal implications identified in this report. Any legal implications regarding war memorials will be considered and addressed as part of the ongoing review.

Finance:

As detailed in the report, initial estimates for the cleaning and restoration is in the region of £2,000 to £2,500 per memorial. This is subject to final quote confirmation in the coming weeks.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Based on the initial estimates the maximum costs would be £10,000. The costs to the Council will reduce if the application to the War Memorials Trust is successful. The costs will be met from the Economic, Development and Place Reserve.
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to adequately maintain and restore war memorials in Ashfield is a significant reputational risk for Ashfield District Council.	Ensuring that sufficient maintenance and restoration of war memorials is carried out, and that this is effectively communicated to all interested parties.

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications identified in this report.

Equalities:

There are no equality implications identified in this report.

Other Implications:

None.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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