

Cabinet

18 December 2013



World War 1 Centenary Activity Programme.

Report of Corporate Management Team

Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services

Councillor Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to provide Cabinet with an overview of activity being arranged across the County to mark the Centenary of World War 1 (WW1-100) the report also seeks member involvement in the planning process.

Background:

- 2 The Centenary of WW1 in 2014 – 2018 will mark a period of major importance to the people of the countries that took part in the conflict. The anniversary will have significance on a national, regional and local level depending upon the specific involvement regions had in the conflict.
- 3 National Significance: In the UK the centenary of World War 1 is already the subject of immense interest among government, media, funding bodies, universities, schools, community groups and individuals, and this interest is universally expected to grow as we approach August 2014 (the centenary of the outbreak of war).
- 4 The government is working alongside partners, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Imperial War Museums, on a series of national remembrance events, together with an extensive cultural programme and educational schemes.
- 5 The Government's Centenary activity will focus on three key dates:
 - a. August 4, 2014 - the centenary of the day Britain entered the war;
 - b. July 1, 2016 - 100 years after the Battle of the Somme; and
 - c. November 11, 2018 - the anniversary of the day the guns fell silent.
- 6 Many local authorities and national cultural institutions are recognising the centenary as a significant event and beginning to think about how they engage and programme activities over the five year period. The important role that military museums can play in meeting the needs of the public has also been recognised. In the case of the Imperial War Museum, a £35m refurbishment is underway. Similar large scale projects are underway in the National Army Museum and the Tank Museum.

- 7 Regional Significance: The region is only now starting to publically announce its major WW1 Centenary signature events for the next four years. The HLF have commented that there is potential for Durham (home of the DLI) to take the lead and become the regional hub if we have the ambition to do this. HLF have identified that the DLI could be the region's hub for commemorative activity and the focus for all visitors to the region seeking information relating to WW1.
- 8 We are currently aware of many projects being developed nationally and that regionally Northumberland, Stockton and Hartlepool are starting to plan their own WW1 commemorative arts events. This opens opportunities for DCC to work collaboratively with regional authorities.
- 9 Local Significance: The centenary is particularly important in County Durham due to the strength and reputation of the Durham Light Infantry and the contribution of the mining industry both in the front line and on the home front.
- 10 County Durham has also traditionally played a major role in supplying young men for the armed forces. It is widely believed that County Durham supplied more new recruits to the armed forces in WW1 than any county with the DLI sending 22 battalions (over 22,000 men) to fight overseas.
- 11 This relationship between the County and the military continues, as County Durham still supplies a disproportionately high number of recruits to the armed forces. Military conflict still affects families in the County today.
- 12 The presence of the DLI Museum, DLI collection and the DLI Archive (stored in the CRO) provides a major resource for the public and professional researchers. The DLI Museum is still acknowledged as one of the leading regimental museums in the UK. However, the exhibitions were launched in 2000 with an expected lifespan of 10 -12 years. They are now tired and elements have ceased to function. The existing display does not allow for easy changes in its content.

Co-ordination of Commemorative Activities

- 13 In beginning to co-ordinate the commemorations there is an emerging structure at a national, regional and local level.
- 14 Nationally the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is leading plans for the anniversary. Culture Secretary Maria Miller is chairing an expert advisory panel to oversee the 4-year programme and Jenny Waldman, the Creative Producer for London 2012, has been appointed director of this programme and will report to a Centenary Cultural Programme Board, chaired by Vikki Heywood CBE, Chairman of the RSA and former Executive Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Other members to include Tony Hall, Director General of the BBC.
- 15 Regionally, Culture and Sport chair a Regional Cultural Sector WWI Co-ordination Group. The group consists of senior cultural officers, including representatives of all the regions archives, museums, Libraries and universities, including representation from Cultural Partnerships. This group feeds into the Regional Department of Culture Media and Sport - Local

Government Officers Group, and is also attended by representatives of the key funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Arts Council England.

- 16 The WW1 Regional Cultural Group has supported the development of a Durham, Newcastle and Northumbria Universities' joint bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for a regional centre of excellence in relation to centenary activities. Informal links have been forged with community groups such as the North East War Memorials Project, County Durham History and Heritage Forum, Popular Politics Project, Friends groups and re-enactment groups across the County.
- 17 Locally there is a Durham County Council WW1 Working Group made up of officers from across the County who have an interest in WW1 activity. The group was formed earlier this year and will act as the co-ordinators of the Council's WW1 programme. The County Durham Cultural Partnership is also anticipated to play a significant role in the co-ordination of activities across the County beyond DCC activity. Whilst the Durham County Council WW1 Working Group is in its infancy and, at present only an officer group, it is proposed that both the Portfolio Holder's for Heritage & Culture and Education join the group in order to have senior Member input into the programme. It is further proposed that the group give consideration to widening its membership to interested Military Services Group.

Approach to Commemorations

- 18 Tone: Nationally the approach to centenary events and activities has been set as very much *commemoration* and not *celebration*. Whilst activities will span a 5 year period and therefore cover the office of several Chairs of the County Council, the opportunity has been taken to discuss the County's approach with the current Chair. The view given was that in developing our programme of activities we should very much adopt this approach and ensure that all activities remain appropriate in their approach and above all respectful to those who were involved in the conflict together with their relatives.
- 19 Milestones: The Government's Centenary activity has focused on three key dates and it will be important that Durham also recognises these milestones of the conflict. As such the programme will seek to put in place activities that commemorate the following dates as the foundation of its programme:
 - a. August 4, 2014 - the centenary of the day Britain entered the war;
 - b. July 1, 2016 - 100 years after the Battle of the Somme; and
 - c. November 11, 2018 - the anniversary of the day the guns fell silent.
- 20 Town and Parish Council Involvement: There is an expectation that Parish and Town Councils, residents groups and AAPs will wish to support WW1 Centenary activity. The Council can support AAP's, Parish and Town Councils and community groups to make best use of resources and increased external funding.
- 21 Activity may include the restoration and cleaning of monuments, planting bedding and the creation of memorial features. Community events and support for the major profile activities listed above.

- 22 Civic and Member Involvement: Throughout the commemorative period there will be numerous opportunities for member and civic engagement. In order to ensure that this is managed in an appropriate manner the working group will consider all activities and liaise with Member Services and the Chairmen's office to ensure protocols are adhered to.

Scope of WW1 Programme

DCC Projects and programmes:

- 23 Whilst preparations and discussions are in their early days there is already an emerging programme. Appendix 3 sets out the emerging programme as it stands but it is expected that this will be added to as individual organisations develop projects. The main areas of content are, however, set out in summary below:
- 24 Proposed Milestone Events:
- a. Entry to War (August 4, 2014 - the centenary of the day Britain entered the war) – In order to mark the centenary of the outbreak of war it is proposed that the unveiling of the DLI statue be used to mark the occasion. The specific date and details are yet to be confirmed.
 - b. Somme (July 1, 2016 - 100 years after the Battle of the Somme) – An appropriate event is still sought to mark this significant point in the War.
 - c. End of War (November 11, 2018 - the anniversary of the day the guns fell silent) – It is anticipated that an enhanced Remembrance Day service will be used to commemorate the end of the conflict.
- 25 The DLI Museum: The WW1 Centenary provides an unprecedented opportunity to develop and revitalise the museum offer. Both Arts Council and HLF Officers have expressed a desire to support work on the DLI but both need a financial as well as political commitment from the Council on the DLI's future.
- a. **WWI Education Programme** - secured £50k funding from the Arts Council which has enabled it to develop and trial a WW1 education programme for secondary schools in conjunction with CAS. An education programme linked to the Somme with secured external funding from the EU already in place.
 - b. **British Army Touring Exhibition** - An Army Museum touring exhibition for two months, plus some WW1 influence on normal programming.
 - c. **Otto Dix Exhibition** - An exhibition of the internationally important art work 'The War' a collection of 50 original prints by the famous German Artist and WW1 veteran Otto Dix. Verbal agreement to the loan has been given but the Louvre has also made a request for the loan of the works and we are therefore in direct competition. It is believed that only three copies of the original prints survive, one copy is in the National Gallery of Australia, one in the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the other in the Historical de la Grande Guerre, the Somme.

- 26 Festivals and Events: Within the current events programme there exists a number of opportunities to add to a WW1 programme. For example, the BRASS Festival affords the opportunity to focus on WW1 music and include commissions and acts themed around WW1 each year. Similarly, the Book Festival, Armed Forces Day all have the capacity to add to any programme.
- 27 Theatre and Cinema Programmes: There is a growing range of products available around the WW1 theme. Both the Gala and Bishop Auckland Town Hall will be programming WW1 related products across the commemorative period. Touring productions of War Horse and Bird Song are indicative of products likely to be available for theatres and film has significant product available.
- 28 Libraries: The Library Service will be developing a programme of local activities and themed presentations to encourage learning around WW1.
- 29 Locomotion: A Small scale exhibition at Locomotion based upon WW1 Locomotives is being considered subject to obtaining a suitable range of objects.
- 30 Archives, Museum and Archaeology: These services have already launched a joint WW1 interactive mapping website supported by £49,000 HLF funding. WW1Centenary activities at the County Record Office have attracted 70 new volunteers. This is the first round of a bid with a potential £450,000 award if stage two is successful. A £9,700 HLF grant has already enabled Durham County Records Office to purchase the contents relating to the First World War of the country house this will support DLI education projects and Academic research.
- 31 Remembrance Services: The normal programme of remembrance services are planned across the 2014 -19 period. Whilst there is some capacity to enhance services this may not meet the expectations of the Council and/or the public. The DCC working group will be identifying and co-ordinating, through Member Services, all opportunities for Members to be involved in the programme.
- 32 AAP's: Indications are that the majority of parish and town councils and AAP's will wish to develop activities and projects around WW1 already developing ideas include:
- a. Trimdon Foundry Parish Council - Creation of 2 granite memorial stones - new footpaths, ramps and steps, a seating area with planting areas to include shrub beds, flowers and ornamental trees and a wildflower meadow.
 - b. The Chester-le-Street District War Memorial Group is raising money for a new monument to replace the existing war memorial.
- 33 War Memorials: A war memorials policy is being developed for the County under the direction of Planning and will seek to provide guidance on the restoration and preservation of War Memorials. The County has 6 memorial structures in variable condition. Current work is surveying these and encouraging communities to identify all memorials across the County. The Memorials Trust has grants available for the restoration of memorials of up to £30,000.

34 In addition DCLG has released a scheme to recognise local Victoria Cross recipients of the First World War through the installation of commemorative paving slabs. The county has six recipients and an interest in the scheme has been registered for when further details are announced. Despite where and how these are to be put in place they will inevitably lead to a certain level of ceremony and civic involvement will need to be detailed once we know more.

35 Twining: Culture and Sport has met with the Senior Cultural Officer of the Somme region of France (twined with County Durham), a number of joint projects were discussed and are currently being developed as follows:

- a. Confirmation was received that a DCC/Somme Department's joint bid for EU Comenius REG10 funding has been approved. €45,000 will enable students to research soldiers fighting in France, and the role of women in Somme communities.
- b. The potential loan to the County of the internationally famous 'The War' prints by Otto Dix.
- c. The sharing of exhibition material, museum objects and further artworks.

Partner Projects and Programmes:

36 Across the County there are a number of other organisations and institutions who will also be organising activities around WW1 and who will make a significant contribution to the programme of activities taking place in County Durham. The activities of some of our major partners are summarised below but Appendix 3 provides a more comprehensive insight into wide range of activities being planned.

37 **Bowes Museum:** The Museum is developing a community project that will involve communities across Teesdale and have applied for support from the HLF.

38 **Beamish Museum:** Beamish are also producing a number of projects based upon the Home front which will run across the five years of the Centenary and involve local communities in East Durham.

39 **Independent Arts Organisations:** A number of independent arts organisation operating across the county are likely to develop work associated with WW1 and add to the county offer.

40 **Durham University:** The university have a number of initiatives associated with WW1 including:

- a. Durham University will hold a major exhibition 'The Somme' this is likely to be academic in nature based on papers and documents and follows the Gospels, and but it would work well with and complement the wider public appeal of the DLI Museum offer. It should be noted that this will draw considerable attention to the Council's WW1 activities (or lack of them) and also to the DLI Museum and Archives.
- b. The university's Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the National Media Museum have established a fully-funded AHRC collaborative doctoral award: PhD scholarship on Media and WWI: available from October

2013.

- 41 **Other:** Private developers are including reference to WW1 Centenary within their developments. Project Genesis in Consett announced its new master plan for the site, which includes a memorial garden and themed park.

National Initiatives and Programmes

- 42 Nationally the government will be supporting a range of initiatives, both directly through department or via its funded partners such as the Imperial War Museum. To date there has not been any significant announcements in relation to this funding with the exception of the Victoria Cross paving slab initiative. It will, however, be the intention to fully engage in any such initiatives as and when they arise.
- 43 More widely, major institutions and organisations such as The English National Ballet, The National Theatre and The British Museum will be commemorating the centenary of the First World War by holding and creating major profile events, this is replicated by many other high profile organisations.
- 44 Many smaller organisations; local and regional museums, theatres, galleries, councils and community groups are starting to announce their proposed WW1 activities and this will continue throughout the five years.
- 45 Where possible any WW1 activity is being captured in the calendar of events on Imperial War Museum's WW1 Partnership events site: <http://www.1914.org>

Funding Opportunities

- 46 In considering a DDC programme of activity there are a number of opportunities for funding any potential programme namely:
- a. National funding opportunities
 - b. Existing revenue funding
 - c. Outside cash limits requests (including capital)
- 47 National Funding Opportunities: The Government has announced an additional £50m will be made available to support WW1 Centenary commemorative activity. This will be distributed via The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Arts Council England (ACE). This funding is in addition to existing funding streams available to support WW1 related activity. There will be an additional £10 million programme of cultural events as part of the centenary commemorations over the 4 years.
- 48 The HLF has also announced a further £6 million to enable young people working in their communities to conserve, explore and share local heritage of the First World War. In addition HLF launched a WW1 small projects fund which if supported can provide considerable opportunity for match funding and developing small projects. Funding available per group is set at between £3,000 and £10,000. There is also a clear recognition that the existing HLF funding streams will also be available to support future WW1 projects.

- 49 More widely, The Memorials Trust has grants of up to £30,000 available for communities to restore war memorials.
- 50 There is indication that funding is also going to be available via a number of trusts and foundations specifically around WW1 Centenary activity. The potential to access these will need to be identified.
- 51 All of the above funding streams require a financial commitment from applicants albeit in varying degrees.
- 52 DCC Revenue Funding: Culture and Sport manage a range of revenue budgets which can be bent into project themes, such as WW1, in order to develop a programme of activity. These include specific programme budgets such as at museums, theatres and cinema operations which can be directed into related activities. Similarly, there are small levels of development budgets which exist to facilitate new work and cultural projects across the County for which there is greater freedom. These funds have been subject to significant MTFP savings this year reducing the ability to fund a significant commemorative programme without external funding and access to other Council resources.
- 53 The Council may shortly be considering an Events report, which if approved, will see some resources allocated to smaller 'one off' events to supplement a core events programme. This resource would also be available to invest into any WW1 programme and act as match funding to external bids. The level of resource available will be determined by what is to be included in the Council's 'core events programme' (i.e. annual events such as BRASS, BAFF, Tour Series etc.) but is unlikely to be in excess of £30k.
- 54 Outside Cash Limits Funding (including capital): The Council has previously recognised the limits of revenue funding against some significant events and agree to resource these from outside service budgets – the most significant of these including The Olympic Torch Relay, Ashes and Gospels. A similar approach could be taken to WW1 and details of how a programme could be enhanced by this are given within this paper.
- 55 Capital resources could also be utilised in developing a programme. In particular for the creation of exhibition installations and specifically a refit/representation of the DLI collection. Such a scheme may be a straightforward refit of the museum or more creatively establishing digitised collection facilities that operate beyond the museum walls. A project proposal is included within Culture and Sports 14/15 capital programme for consideration.
- 56 To secure external funding, the basis of a programme will need to be agreed and the council's level of resource allocation to this work confirmed.

Next Steps and Challenges

- 57 In continuing to plan for the commemorations it is now vital that:
- a. An events and activities calendar for all activities across the County is established through the Cultural Partnership to ensure coordination of activities. The commemoration period spans a five year period and

sustaining a comprehensive programme throughout will only be achieved through a partnership approach. Similarly decisions around the focus point(s) of the county's efforts will need to be made.

- b. Liaison with Member Support and the Chairmen's office is undertaken as the programme emerges to determine specific member and civic involvement.
- c. A county wide external funding strategy is developed.

Recommendations

58 It is recommended that:

- i. Cabinet endorse the approach to arrangements for WW1 Centenary
- ii. The Portfolio Holder's for Heritage & Culture and Education join the Durham County Council WW1 Working Group
- iii. A further update report is presented to Cabinet in the summer 2014

Contact: Stephen Howell Tel: 03000 264 550

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None from this paper

Staffing - None from this paper

Risk - Potential that all external funding will not be secured, this will be mitigated for and contingency plans adopted to ensure a positive impact is still delivered.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty -

During the development of the project no evidence has emerged that would indicate that there will be any adverse impact on any of the protected strands.

Accommodation –

No addition office space will be required

Crime and Disorder -

None from this paper

Human Rights -

None from this paper

Consultation -

Consultation will take place around detail of activity

Procurement -

Council's procurement procedures will be adhered to.

Disability Issues - None from this paper

Legal Implications - None from this paper