

Cabinet

16 May 2018



First World War Centenary Signature Commemorative Programme

Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

Councillor Ossie Johnson, Portfolio Holder of Tourism, Culture, Leisure and Rural Issues

Purpose of the Report

1. To outline the proposed programme of events and activities taking place across the County in commemoration of the end point in the First World War. The report highlights a range of activities organised by both the Council and other partners as well as proposing some additional activities which the Council may wish to commit to.

Background

2. A previous report in 2013 agreed that the Council would seek to mark three key milestones during the First World War commemorative period:
 - **August 4 2014** - the centenary of the day Britain entered war,
 - **July 1 2016** - 100 years after the Battle of the Somme started,
 - **November 11 2018** - the centenary of the day the guns fell silent.
3. The County benefited from the unveiling of the DLI statue in the Durham City market place to commemorate the entry to war in 1914. Then followed the placing of the first 2 Victoria Cross commemorative paving slabs for Private Thomas Kenny (South Wingate) and Lieutenant Colonel Roland Bradford (Witton Park).
4. In August 2015, the Council approved £107,000 of funding to deliver a programme to commemorate the midway point of the Centenary commemoration programme; namely the Battle of the Somme. Key events delivered as part of the 2016 /17 programme included:
 - a. Durham Hymns world premiere at Durham cathedral
 - b. Fighting Bradford's play at the Gala theatre
 - c. 1916: No Turning Back immersive experience at Gala theatre
5. Additional events included the Somme film showing at Gala theatre and the launch of the Somme DLI partnership gallery at Palace Green Library featuring over 80 objects from the DLI collection – *Comrades, Courage and*

Community. Almost 38,000 people participated in these five events during 2016, to commemorate the heroic actions of local soldiers and their families.

6. It is now timely for the Council to consider an end of war commemoration programme, in line with the previous commitment to focus local people on the centenary, and establish some activity leading up to the 11 November Armistice date. This report is focused upon outlining existing plans and proposing additional signature funding to enhance existing plans to commemorate the centenary of the day the guns fell silent.

Existing commemoration plans

7. Initiatives that are already planned for the 2018 commemorative year include:

- a. **National events with a local focus:**

- i. **Beacons of Light – Battles Over** - a chain of 1,000 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on 11 November 2018, a century after the guns fell silent. The beacons will symbolise the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war. More than 800 councils, communities and other organisations have already confirmed their involvement. As with the Queen's birthday beacons these will be organised mainly by Town and Parish Councils with support in some instances from the County. 19 beacons participants across the County have already been confirmed (see Appendix 2 for full list) and it is envisaged that more may follow ensuring the County is well represented.

- b. **Events taking place in County Durham being organised and delivered by others:**

- i. **Durham City annual remembrance parade** will take place with representatives of the armed forces each arranging a component part of the annual ceremony. The parade is coordinated by 8 Btn of the Rifles.

As in previous years, there will be numerous other parades across the county, primarily organised by the Royal British Legion (RBL). As details of these events are finalised, work will be carried out with the RBL to raise awareness of the arrangements for these events with local communities.

- ii. Durham Cathedral will have the **Festival of Remembrance Concert** on 10 November which will focus on the centenary and all of their usual Remembrance Day services on the Sunday. In addition they are planning to hold a temporary exhibition within Open Treasure called **Armistice: Living with the Peace** running in the autumn to mid-January 2019.

- iii. There will also be a wealth of activity by smaller organisations and societies too numerous to list. For example local poppy making initiatives hosted by community venues and churches where handmade poppies will be used to decorate villages such as Lanchester or special war themed talks. Similarly, some parishes intend to lay plaques and install other commemorative items such as peace soldiers and flower beds. However, every effort will be made to ensure these are promoted and publicised as part of a coherent county wide programme. In addition both Bowes and Beamish will deliver WW1 related programmes.

c. Events to be delivered by the County Council:

- i. **AAP community commemoration week** – a weekend programme of community heritage projects is currently being developed which will be presented in Murton at the Glebe Centre. This will involve an exhibition featuring the story of the County's 7 VC winners supported the local heritage group.
- ii. **Durham at War Open Conference** will be hosted by the Durham County Record Office on 29th September 2018. Over the last four years the HLF-funded Durham at War project has mapped the story of County Durham and its people in the First World War in a new local history website. With a theme of 'lest we forget' to mark the end of the war, this annual conference will bring together partners and community organisations who have all contributed to the development of the Durham at War project.
- iii. **Western Front Association Conference** will take place on 13 October 2018, hosted by the Durham County Record Office. This annual one day conference takes place in CLS Methodist Church. Organised by the Durham Branch of the WFA, it successfully attracts speakers of national importance.
- iv. **Bridging the Divides: No Man's Land photography Exhibition** at Bishop Auckland Town Hall – featuring the work of women photographers in the field.
- v. **Placing of Memorial stone to the Durham Pals in the village of Bus Les Artois, at the Somme:** As part of the commemoration calendar, partners the Rifles and DLI Trustees have indicated that a memorial stone to the Durham Pals be placed in the village of Bus Les Artois, at the Somme. The commissioning of the stone has been managed by DCC with the payment for its fabrication and installation funded by the DLI Trustees / Rifles. This has been paid for using the residual monies from the 2016 Northern Echo public appeal.

Each year, the village of Bus les Artois commemorates the bravery of local people on 30 June. The Durham Pals memorial stone has followed the design, construct and size of the other “Pals” regimental memorials. It has been made in Portland stone and has been delivered to Bus les Artois in time for its dedication as part of the annual event in June.

- vi. **Re-location of the Victoria Cross memorial stone “For Valour”** which has been relocated to Palace Green in March 2018. Members of “The Faithful” Inkerman Dinner Club, the owners of the VC stone, approached Durham County Council to help them find a new home for their memorial. The memorial which has been at its current location since September 2001 names the 11 valorous men who were winners of the Victoria Cross whilst serving with the Regiment between 1854 and 1942.

“The Faithful” Inkerman Dinner Club represents those who formerly served in the Durham Light Infantry. Wishing the stone to be relocated from its current site the County Council, Dinner Club representatives and Durham University began discussions as to where the stone could be placed that was significant to them.

“The Faithful” Inkerman Dinner Club decided that the best option was to relocate the memorial to a space in front of the Cosens Hall, on Palace Green.

This means that the memorial is now in the vicinity of the DLI Memorial Garden and Memorial Chapel, both of which are sited within the Cathedral complex and importantly adjacent to the *Courage Comrades and Community* DLI exhibition at the Palace Green Library; creating a concentration of DLI memorials within the World Heritage site.

- vii. **Victoria Cross stone laying** – Two stones have been placed in April 2018, commemorating Lieutenant George McKean and Lieutenant Commander George Nicholson Bradford.

The two remaining Durham Light Infantry VC commemorative stones will be placed during the latter part of 2018, each led by the local AAP coordinators. These commemorate the actions of Second Lieutenant John Youll in June and Sergeant William McNally in October.

- viii. **DLI Annual Temporary Exhibition 2018** - the theme for the next annual exhibition will be taken from the suggestions that were raised by partners during the 2017 consultation phase.

- ix. This theme will be fully developed in partnership with the Durham University team who will curate the exhibition in

consultation with the new DLI Stakeholder Group, DCRO and DLI Trustees. It is envisaged that the new annual exhibition would be opened at the end of 2018. The cost of this exhibition is included in the annual SLA fee that is paid to the University as part of the five year agreement.

- x. **Schools and Educational Programmes** – Schools across the County have already held a wide range of events connected to the WWI commemoration and enhanced their teaching of this aspect of history. Additional specialist training to support schools in developing their own teaching and events in association with the Armistice has been delivered via the Education Durham History networks 2017/18. Further training will also be available at the summer 2018 Durham History Conference. A one day workshop for Secondary pupils is planned, to be held on 12th November focused on the final weeks of conflict and the building of the peace. The Education Service has brokered a range of links for schools with local and national associations to enable additional provision related to the commemoration and ongoing quality teaching related to the key issues.

- xi. **Leazes Bowl Display** – Clean and Green will be installing a ‘poppies display’ to replace the existing butterfly installation within Leazes Bowl.

Additional opportunities

- 8. There is also an opportunity to deliver specially created events and initiatives in addition to those listed above. Together, they combine to mark the end of the centenary period in a creative and imaginative way.

- a. **Commemorative Light Art Installation:** Building on the success of Lumiere over the past decade, and linking to the new *Place of Light* branding, a commissioned light art/projection piece is proposed to be created and then installed in Millennium Place. This piece could involve both sound and light to establish a piece resonant to the end of the war, togetherness and homecoming at peace.

The aim will be to animate Millennium Place with a commemorative work influenced by the names of the DLI fallen and/or other suitable imagery. The exact nature of the installation will be shaped by the artist commissioned to deliver the project, using the archive of the DLI as inspiration and focus. To commission and create this work will be approximately £30,000. This includes the first venue set up and running costs only. It is envisaged that the installation will be in place for approximately two weeks although this will depend on the nature of the final work.

- b. **A reprise of the Durham Hymns:** First performed at Durham Cathedral in 2016, The Durham Hymns was commissioned by the

Northern Regional Brass Band Trust in partnership with Durham County Council.

A century on from the Battle of the Somme, this brand new suite of hymns commemorated sacrifice, courage and endurance. Created for brass band and choir, with lyrics by Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, the work was inspired by the true-life experiences of County Durham people researched through the County Archive and DLI collections.

The second signature scheme being proposed is a reprise of the Durham Hymns which has proven to be highly popular with community groups and residents. Since its world premiere in 2016, the Durham Hymns have been “on tour” in communities across the region. It is proposed to stage a reprise at The Gala Theatre in November 2018. This would cost in the region of £12,500.

There would be 2 performances on Sunday 11 November, days providing the opportunity for over 1000 people to experience this visual and musical tribute.

Financial Implications

9. The total cost of the additional signature events proposed is an estimated £42,000. The table below shows the distribution of costs associated with the signature First World War events programme.

Signature event	Cost	Cumulative total
Light Art Installation	£30,000	£30,000
Durham Hymns – the Reprise event	£12,500	£42,500

10. All other elements of the programme will be accommodated either within the relevant service revenue budget or from the activity organisers.

Summary

11. In summary, the proposed signature events programme provides opportunities through visual arts and musical engagement to commemorate the heroic actions of local men, women and families, and create a lasting legacy for the County.
12. The programme engages our local heritage partners within the county and ensures a county-wide approach is adopted to this historically significant period.
13. The period and its commemorations will represent a significant moment in the County’s history and every effort will be made to document and record the

activities of the programme. Similarly, a wider calendar of commemorative activities, including as many community activities as possible, will be developed and made publicly available.

Recommendations and reasons

14. It is recommended that:
- a. The existing programme of events is noted
 - b. The additional Signature Event proposals set-out within the report are supported namely:
 - i. A WW1 themed light art installation;
 - ii. Durham Hymns performances;
 - c. A contribution of £42,500 to fund the commissioning of the light art and hymns programme be funded from 2018/19 General Contingencies.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

The signature events programme would require an additional investment of £42,500 from DCC funds.

Staffing –

None from this report.

Risk –

None from this report.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty –

None in this report.

Accommodation –

None in this report.

Crime and Disorder –

None in this report.

Human Rights –

None in this report.

Consultation –

Consultation on ideas has been held with DLI representatives and wider forum group.

Discussions with TAP and the AAP network have been undertaken in identifying wider activities.

Procurement –

Procurement of the public art, artists to create the light art installation, performers and exhibits would all follow DCC procurement rules.

Disability Issues –

None from this report.

Legal Implications –

Documentation between the LA and contracts with performers, artists would all involve legal services input. Any planning issues raised as a result of the design and installation of the piece of public art would be discussed and negotiated with DCC Planning department.

Appendix 2: Confirmed County Durham participants in ‘Battle’s Over - A Nation’s Tribute and WWI Beacons of Light’

Brandon and Meadowfield Royal British	Taken from Battles Over Website
Legion, Carrside Youth and Community Project and St. John’s Hall, Meadowfield	Taken from Battles Over Website
Shotley Bridge Cricket Club	Taken from Battles Over Website
Ferryhill Town Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Waldrige Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
St Andrew’s Church - Winston	Taken from Battles Over Website
Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website/AAP Information
Barnard Castle - (English Heritage)	Taken from Battles Over Website
Eggleston Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Haswell Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Fishburn Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Sherburn Village Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Greater Willington Town Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Healeyfield Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website/AAP Information
Romaldkirk Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Great Aycliffe Town Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Spennymoor Town Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Coxhoe Parish Council	Taken from Battles Over Website
Lanchester & Burnhope	AAP Information