

Report

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Report to:	Community Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 October 2016
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	War Memorial – General Provision and Inscription Process
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ inform Committee of the provision of a new war memorial in Bothwell Road Park that recognises the armed forces personnel who lost their lives serving their country outwith World Wars 1 and 2
- ♦ request approval for the revised procedure which authorises any new memorial inscription on the Council's war memorials

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the provision of a new war memorial, situated adjacent to the existing cenotaph in Bothwell Road Public Park, Hamilton, for service personnel who died, in service, outwith World War 1 and World War 2, be noted; and
- (2) that the revised procedure which authorises any new memorial inscription on the Council's war memorials be agreed.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council's role, under the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, is to ensure the maintenance, repair and protection of war memorials within its control. In addition to the general upkeep, additional works are carried out with regards to key remembrance dates where the Council ensures the appearance of each memorial is of an acceptable standard, for example the cleaning of the stone and re-lettering of existing inscriptions.
- 3.2. War memorials were traditionally provided through public subscription and were generally funded through the efforts of local communities or groups such as social clubs or churches. Each war memorial is unique in the sense that it represents a particular community, area of the authority or dedicated regiment and can range from a cenotaph similar to that at Bothwell Road Park to a wall plaque found in the Town Hall, Hamilton.
- 3.3. The Council is responsible for the actual inscription of new names onto any existing War Memorials. The inscriptions are agreed, in principle, with The Royal British Legion Scotland prior to any inscription taking place in order that the inscriptions meet the necessary criteria for inclusion, namely that only those service personnel who lost their lives during World War 1 and World War 2 are considered.

- 3.4. Bereavement Services is currently responsible for the maintenance of 44 war memorials across the Council area. Of these 44 war memorials, 36 are solely dedicated to service personnel who fell in World War One with the remainder dedicated to service personnel who fell in either World War 1 or 2. A collective total of 4,482 inscriptions are present on the 44 war memorials with capacity for a further 103 inscriptions available.
- 3.5. There is currently no War Memorial within South Lanarkshire that is dedicated to any armed forces personnel who fell in conflicts outwith World Wars 1 and 2. In turn, the Council has been contacted by families who have lost relatives in conflicts outwith World Wars 1 and 2 in terms of how to appropriately recognise these personnel.

4. War Memorial

- 4.1. Following on from the above, Bereavement Services has been involved in extensive discussions with various groups and individuals in seeking a position that satisfied all respective parties with regard to providing a war memorial that recognises armed forces personnel who fell in conflicts outwith World War 1 and 2. In turn, to agree a procedure to add inscription to existing War Memorials. These groups and individuals include:-
- ◆ The Royal British Legion (Scotland)
 - ◆ The War Memorial Trust
 - ◆ The Scottish Bereavement Benchmarking Group
 - ◆ families who have lost relatives in various conflicts
- 4.2. Through discussions with The Royal British Legion Scotland, the Council proposes to continue the existing procedure of only permitting new inscriptions on existing War Memorials from the families of armed forces personnel who fell during either of the two world wars, and not from those who fell in other conflicts.
- 4.3. To give the families, friends and colleagues of Service Personnel who fell outwith World War 1 or 2 the opportunity to remember their sacrifice, Bereavement Services is proposing to commission the installation of a new war memorial.
- 4.4. This newly created war memorial will be situated in Bothwell Road Public Park see plan at (Appendix 1) and the hexagonal memorial will stand 1.4m high and will be 1.25m at the widest part of the base. It will be positioned behind the existing cenotaph and the light grey granite memorial tower will accommodate 144 plaques (each measuring 100mm x 150mm). The inscriptions will be restricted to include the following information with a standard format that is in keeping with existing war memorials:-
- ◆ Deceased name
 - ◆ Regiment
 - ◆ Place of Death
 - ◆ Date of Death
- 4.5. The new memorial will be decorated with three stone scrolls (each one 400mm x 125mm x 300mm) on top of the memorial and these will include individual passages on each. These short passages were provided by Royal British Legion Scotland and all are dedications which have significance and clearly relate to the memory of those who fell in the service of their country.

Scroll 1

***When You Go Home,
Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Their Tomorrow,
We gave Our Today***

Scroll 2

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.***

Scroll 3

***Let us remember our comrades in the air on the seas,
In those valleys, and on those hills.
When you walk in peaceful lanes so green
Remember us and think what might have been***

- 4.6. The Council has a list of 34 service personnel who are currently not commemorated on existing War Memorials as they have fallen in conflicts outwith World Wars 1 and 2 and these would be added to the new war memorial. Bereavement Services will install these plaques prior to any official opening event and to the Annual Remembrance services in November.
- 4.7. These proposals have been discussed with The Royal British Legion Scotland who have expressed their satisfaction at the Council's position on both the use of the existing 44 war memorials and our commitment to formally, and gracefully, commemorate South Lanarkshire's service personnel who died outwith World Wars 1 and 2 and are known to the Council at this time.

Memorial Inscription Procedure

- 4.8. Bereavement Services has developed new documentation to allow any request for an inscription on either the new or existing war memorials, providing clear direction for both the Council and the applicant as to where the inscription should be placed.
- 4.9. Included on the document, and acknowledging the support and direction from Royal British Legion Scotland, the provision of the following information would be essential in assessing the request:
- ◆ Applicant's name
 - ◆ Applicant – contact detail
 - ◆ Name of Deceased
 - ◆ Regiment History
 - ◆ Army Number
 - ◆ Date and Place of Death
 - ◆ Chosen War Memorial
 - ◆ Supporting Information
- 4.10. The Council will govern this process and, upon receipt of a completed application, will pass the detail to The Royal British Legion Scotland who will advise whether the application is to be supported or not. Communication of the completed assessment will be sent by the Council to the applicant, advising them of the decision. Any cost associated with a new inscription would be met by the Council.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications relative to the report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The purchase and installation of the new War memorial in addition to the required groundworks is being funded from the existing Cemetery Capital programme at an approximate cost of £15,000.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. Through discussions with The Royal British Legion Scotland, it is proposed that a formal opening ceremony occurs (Council Headquarters) where families of the 34 service personnel are invited along to be part of a Roll of Honour "read out". On its completion the families would visit the new memorial in Bothwell Road Public Park, Hamilton in order to hold an unveiling ceremony. It is intended that this should take place prior to the Remembrance service in November 2016.

7.2. Any future Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cenotaph would recognise the additional memorial.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

8.2. All the necessary consultation arrangements have taken place.

**Michael McGlynn,
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

28 September 2016

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values

♦ Working with and respecting others

Previous References

♦ None

List of Background Papers

♦ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-Danny Maxwell, Bereavement Services Manager

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