

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....17th May 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton Borough Council Heritage Plaque Scheme

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report relating to the adoption of a Heritage Plaque Scheme for Stockton Borough.

Members were reminded that the Council had adopted a commemoration procedure for the acknowledgement of significant individuals.

At the time of adoption of this procedure consideration was given to a variety of means to acknowledge individuals, including plaques, interpretive panels, portraits or statues. In the first instance it was agreed that all successful nominations could be included in the virtual Stockton Hall of Fame, and a new area was developed on the SBC website.

Nominees already inducted to the Hall of Fame include Brass Crosby, George Stephenson, John Walker, Harold Macmillan, Alexander Fleck, Will Hay, Thomas Sheraton, Ivy Close and Dr M'Gonigle.

The particular appetite for plaques as a means of acknowledging an individual was also noted at the time of the establishment of the Commemoration Working Group, which oversaw the commemoration procedure. It was accepted, however, that a number of issues present themselves in relation to this and a detailed scheme would be required, addressing such things as design, building selection, ownership and maintenance, legal and resource implications.

Cabinet considered details of the proposed commemorative plaque scheme together with financial implications. Members noted that recommendations under the scheme would be made by the Commemoration Working Group to Cabinet, for final approval.

It was suggested that if Cabinet agreed to adopt the Heritage Plaque Scheme then the inaugural plaque should be dedicated to Dr M'Gonigle.

It was explained that Dr M'Gonigle had undoubtedly made a nationally significant contribution to the understanding of public health and the connection between poverty and ill health. He had been inducted to the Stockton Hall of Fame, the building he was believed to have lived and died in still stands in Norton, and the owner was keen to see a plaque erected. Furthermore the owner had expressed a willingness to make a financial contribution.

A plaque to Dr M'Gonigle would provide a very useful illustration of The Council's intentions. It would raise the profile of a figure who was less widely known than his contribution to society arguably warranted, making a connection to an existing building, and demonstrating the involvement the Council would be seeking to encourage from the community and building owners. This would also echo the transfer of responsibility for Public Health to the Council from 2013.

RESOLVED that:

1. a Heritage Plaques Scheme for Stockton, which would celebrate physical links to historical figures and events in the Borough's history, be adopted
2. final approval for any individual plaque to be subject to Cabinet authorisation.
3. The inaugural plaque be dedicated to Dr M'Gonigle.

3. Reasons for the Decision

In order to progress the commemoration of Stockton's Heritage through the positioning of blue plaques on buildings associated with famous residents and events it's necessary to adopt a consistent approach. The report proposed a Heritage Plaques Scheme which would ensure this was achieved.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 25 May 2012

Proper Officer  
21 May 2012