

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

13TH FEBRUARY 2014

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

COUNCIL DECISION

Corporate Management and Finance – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor David Harrington

COMMEMORATION OF INDIVIDUALS / COUNCILLORS

1. Summary

Cabinet are asked to consider a review of the current commemoration procedure and the proposed amendment to that procedure to include the posthumous commemoration of Councillors' contribution to the Borough.

2. Recommendations

1. Cabinet note the consultation undertaken with both the Commemoration Working Group and the Members Advisory Panel regards the proposed amendment to the commemoration procedure to include the posthumous commemoration of Councillors' contribution to the Borough.
2. The proposed procedure for posthumously commemorating Councillors, as outlined at paragraphs 5-9, be recommended for approval by Council.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To establish an agreed procedure for the consideration of requests for the posthumous commemorate Councillors.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- Relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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SUMMARY

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet note the consultation undertaken with both the Commemoration Working Group and the Members Advisory Panel regards the proposed amendment to the commemoration procedure to include the posthumous commemoration of Councillors' contribution to the Borough.
2. The proposed procedure for posthumously commemorating Councillors, as outlined at paragraphs 5-9, be recommended for approval by Council.

DETAIL

1. The Commemorative Working Group was formed by the Executive Scrutiny Committee in 2008, this forum was established to commemorate the actions of individuals that were either born, lived or worked within the borough and had excelled either locally, nationally or internationally in some way, bringing recognition to both themselves and the borough as a whole.
2. Supported by the Council's Leisure & Culture Services, who are responsible for the Council's Heritage Strategy, and by Democratic Services, the Group has considered nominations received from the public / elected members to commemorate individuals who, through their actions, have brought recognition to the Borough.
3. With no available budget as such, commemoration of individuals such as George Stephenson, John Walker, and Dr McGonigle have been achieved through the creation of an on-line Hall of Fame hosted within the Council's website.
4. The Group allows Members to decide who / what should or shouldn't be commemorated, using the criteria appended to this report and supported by evidence from the nominator, plus key officers of the Council.
5. Feedback would suggest that this approach is working and should continue for individuals, however requests have been received over the last few years for the Council to also posthumously commemorate Councillors. Therefore, it is felt necessary and appropriate now to formalise the consideration and approval of such requests. The report proposes that following an appropriate period of reflection, consideration of such requests is included in the work of this Working Group. It is suggested that an appropriate length of reflection

would be 4 years, signifying the continuing impact of an individual's contributions across two successive councils.

6. The criteria currently used by the Commemorative Working Group determines the significance of an individual's contribution using two criteria and this it is felt would be suitable for the purposes of considering the commemoration of Councillors. The criteria are as follows:
 - (1) Level of importance – their impact or their achievements, and their consequent eminence, being judged locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.
 - (2) Relevance to the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees – What is their connection to the Borough?
 - (a) Born or died here only; lived here for a short while, or tenuous Association with the place.
 - (b) Not born here, did not live here, but the work/event for which they are known took place here.
 - (c) Born and/or lived here but the work for which they are known took place elsewhere.
 - (d) Born and/or lived here and the work for which they are known took place here.
 - (3) The above categories are listed in order of importance with (a) scoring the lowest and (d) justifying the greatest commemoration. Please refer to **Appendix 1** which illustrates the scoring model.
7. The procedure for considering individuals currently involves reports being presented to the Group which include the detail of the original request in addition to an objective analysis provided by Stockton Borough Council's Officers.
8. The Group periodically judge nominations, giving consideration to the level of Importance, relevance to Stockton-on-Tees and the appropriate level of Commemoration.
9. In terms of the procedure/report to the Group, it is proposed that in the case of Councillors, the report should include an objective analysis, and suggested commemorative options provided by the Relevant Corporate Director/Head of Service for the Group to consider.

CONSULTATION

10. The Members Advisory Panel, at its meeting held on 25th September 2013, endorsed the proposal outlined from paragraphs 5-9 and requested that the matter be referred on to the Commemoration Working Group in order that their views may be obtained, prior to consideration by Cabinet and ultimately Council for approval.
11. The Commemoration Working Group, at its meeting held on 24th January 2014, also approved the proposed procedure.

CONCLUSION

12. The views of Cabinet/Council are invited on the proposed changes outlined in this report for the posthumous commemoration of Councillors.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no legal obligation associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. Categorised as low risk

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Background Papers:
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:
Property Implications:

None
Not Ward specific
None