

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014**

**REPORT OF  
CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**COMMEMORATION OF INDIVIDUALS / COUNCILLORS**

**SUMMARY**

Council 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.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed procedure for posthumously commemorating Councillors, as outlined at paragraphs 5-9, be approved.

**DETAIL**

1. The Commemorative Working Group was formed by the Executive Scrutiny Committee in 2008. The Group 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 various individuals.
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 should not 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. However requests have been received over the last few years for the Council also to 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 the 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.
10. Cabinet considered the item at its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and a copy of the relevant Cabinet minute extract is attached at **Appendix 2**.

## **CONSULTATION**

11. The Members Advisory Panel, at its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013, endorsed the proposal outlined in 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.
12. The Commemoration Working Group, at its meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014, also approved the proposed procedure.

## **CONCLUSION**

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

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. None

## RISK ASSESSMENT

15. Categorised as low risk

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	<b>None</b>
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	<b>Not Ward specific</b>
<u>Property Implications:</u>	<b>None</b>