

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET / COUNCIL DECISION**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting.....13<sup>th</sup> February 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Commemoration of Individuals and Councillors

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the commemoration procedure and the proposed amendment to that procedure to include the posthumous commemoration of Councillors' contribution to the Borough.

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.

Supported by the Council's Leisure & Culture Services, who were responsible for the Council's Heritage Strategy, and by Democratic Services, the Group had considered nominations received from the public / elected members to commemorate individuals who, through their actions, had brought recognition to the Borough.

With no available budget as such, commemoration of individuals such as George Stephenson, John Walker, and Dr McGonigle had been achieved through the creation of an on-line Hall of Fame hosted within the Council's website.

The Group allowed 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.

Feedback would suggest that this approach was working and should continue for individuals, however requests had been received over the last few years for the Council to also posthumously commemorate Councillors. Therefore, it was felt necessary and appropriate to formalise the consideration and approval of such requests. The report proposed that following an appropriate period of reflection, consideration of such requests was included in the work of this Working Group. It was suggested that an appropriate length of reflection would be 4 years, signifying the continuing impact of an individual's contributions across two successive councils.

The criteria used by the Commemorative Working Group determined the significance of an individual's contribution using two criteria and this it was felt would be suitable for the purposes of considering the commemoration of Councillors. The criteria were 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.

The procedure for considering individuals involved reports being presented to the Group which included the detail of the original request in addition to an objective analysis provided by Stockton Borough Council's Officers.

The Group periodically judged nominations, giving consideration to the level of Importance, relevance to Stockton-on-Tees and the appropriate level of Commemoration.

In terms of the procedure / report to the Group, it was 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.

With regard to consultation 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.

The Commemoration Working Group, at its meeting held on 24th January 2014, also approved the proposed procedure.

RESOLVED that:-

1. 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 be noted.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

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

3. Reasons for the Decision

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

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

All Members present declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 15 – Commemoration of Individuals and Councillors in relation to the Council's functions regarding honours given to Members.

6. Details of any Dispensation

N/A

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

Midnight on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014

Proper Officer  
D E Bond  
17<sup>th</sup> February 2014