

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Mark Robinson, Executive Member for Community, Leisure & Culture

To: Cabinet, 14 October 2019

Author: Stefan Clifford, Locality Team Leader

Subject: VE/VJ Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations 2020

Purpose: To consider the decision to offer a £30,000 VE and VJ celebratory grant scheme in 2020.

Recommendations:

1. That approval is granted for a £30,000 VE and VJ Day celebratory grant scheme for community events which commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2020.
2. That the proposed VE and VJ Day celebratory grant scheme be administrated by the Norfolk Community Foundation (NCF).

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Friday May 8th 2020, and Saturday August 15th 2020, mark the 75th anniversaries of both VE day and VJ day respectively, commemorating the end of World War II.
- 1.2 In June 2019, Business Secretary Greg Clark announced that May Day bank holiday 2020 would be moved back 4 days to Friday 8th May in order to facilitate a 3-day weekend of commemorative events that: *“...will ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to remember and honour our heroes of the Second World War and reflect on the sacrifices of a generation”*.
- 1.3 Pageant Master Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR is inviting community organisations, pubs, hotels, churches and village greens, to join in with his national programme of events through the hosting of street parties, dances, nations toasts, services of commemoration, and bell ringing celebrations in support of the Armed Forces Charity the SSSFA.
- 1.4 As a fully signed up member of the Armed Forces Covenant, Breckland Council has a rich historic alliance with the armed forces, as well as a strong track record of facilitating such commemorative activity within our communities in the recent past.
- 1.5 In November 2018, the council successfully delivered the ‘World War 1 Heritage Fund’, which was a £5,000 celebratory grant scheme for community events which marked the 100 years since the end of World War 1. This grant scheme delivered 10 projects, held across 8 Breckland communities, which collectively engaged over 8350 residents.
- 1.6 Therefore, and in order to engage as many residents as possible in the forthcoming celebrations, it is being proposed that the council offers a £30,000 celebratory grant scheme which will facilitate community events that will be held in commemoration and celebration of both the VE and VJ day 75th anniversary celebrations in 2020.

- 1.7 It is recommended that the scheme will offer grants of up to £500 per applicant, and will be managed externally by the Norfolk Community Foundation at a commission cost of 10% per successful grant awarded (up to a maximum of £3,000).
- 1.8 Internal management and administration of the programme would require the recruitment of an additional council officer resource at a cost of £8,652 per year for a 0.25 Grade 8 post. Therefore, commissioning NCF as administrators of the proposed VE/VJ Day celebratory grant scheme represents the best value for money option to the council.

2.0 **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Approve the recommended VE and VJ Day Celebratory Grant scheme.
- 2.2 Approve the recommended VE and VJ Day Celebratory Grant scheme outlined in the above proposal and recruit a 0.25 Communities Officer resource to manage and administrate the scheme internally at a cost of £8,652.
- 2.3 Do nothing.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 Breckland Council has a rich historic alliance with the armed forces, as well as a strong track record of facilitating such commemorative activity within our communities in the recent past. This grant scheme will build on those which have gone before it and maximum the amount of Breckland residents able to participate in the national celebrations.
- 3.2 The NCF are experts in grant management and administration and would provide both a better service to the community, and better value for money, through the ability to signpost groups to a wider number of available grant schemes.
- 3.3 The decision would allow current council resources to be better focused on more proactive and preventative work with local communities and partner agencies, in particular around the health and social care agenda, rather than administration of the grants scheme.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 4.1 Community cohesion. Residents will be offered the opportunity to participate in national programme of events commemorating a pivotal moment of history.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

5.1 **Financial**

See Appendix A

5.2 **Timescales**

The grant scheme would open Nov 2019 and close in Feb 2020.

6 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

All wards

Background papers:-

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Proforma B