

CENTENARY END OF GREAT WAR NOVEMBER 2018	19th SEPTEMBER 2017
CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Provide Civic Leadership
Lead Officer	Director of Performance
Cost: (If applicable)	To be confirmed

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for Elected Member/Officer representation and Community interest group representation on the Working Group

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting in August 2017 Council agreed the Notice of Motion and supporting statement as follows:

“That this Council pays tribute to all those from our community who served on the Centenary of the End of the Great War, acknowledges with grateful thanks those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and do so by participating in the Beacons of Light National Tribute on the 11th November 2018 and further propose the establishment of a Group to include key stakeholders to plan this important event.”

“The Beacons of Light tribute is to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1, the fallen of the conflict and expresses this Borough’s grateful thanks to all those, from the entire community, who did not return home or who came home forever changed by their experiences. History recalls the words of the foreign Minister of the time Sir Edward Grey on August 3rd 1914 “the lights are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime”. How appropriate then it is to remember the injured and fallen with Beacons of Light. Those injured and fallen are our Beacons of Light to free speech and democracy. The memory of their sacrifice must light our path to the future.

In November 2018 it will be 100 years since the end of WW1 and the tribute I am (Alderman Robinson) proposing will be part of the national commemorations and thanksgiving. In this Borough we can all look at the war memorials in our towns and villages and the price a generation paid is literally written in stone. These men who went to war came from all sections of society, some even told lies about their age to be allowed to fight, and the Lord of the manor fought alongside the farm hand. War

does not respect someone's position in life, many from all aspects of society did not come home. I have brought this motion as I was contacted by Limavady Branch Royal British Legion, who thought it would be appropriate for this council to show community leadership and have an event marking the centenary of the end of the war. This would be done in conjunction with the RBL, our Council's Veterans' Champion, local clergy and any other local organisation with a vested interest who wished to participate in paying tribute to the fallen. To ensure plenty of time for organisation I felt now was the appropriate time as Ypres and Passchendaele are in the headlines. It is my firm conviction that Causeway Coast & Glens should give Civic leadership in what is an historical event of national importance. I would like to see each of the former council headquarters; Ballymoney, Ballycastle, Coleraine & Limavady, having a beacon so that the element of local respect is enhanced for the commemoration events.

This can only be achieved if a sub group helps co-ordinate the events by working with all interested organisations, veteran's groups, regimental associations and the local clergy to help ensure a commemoration that can be as locally relevant as is possible. As a council we should take the lead in giving thanks for the end of the war but also to pay due respect to those who gave their all. There are many families in The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough who remember with pride relatives who participated in this most awful of wars, it is fitting that they realise that we, as their local council representatives, recognise and honour the service given. I am proposing this motion as too many people from Causeway Coast and Glens were left on foreign fields to forever rest, and as a mark of respect to those who made it home to their families and who are deserving of our remembrance and appreciation. As a council we will, by these commemorative events, lead this areas acknowledgement of history and do our civic duty by leading respectful events that will properly mark the centenary and express our hopes for the continuance of peace. I ask all my fellow elected representatives to support this motion in appreciation of free speech and democracy."

2.2 Establishment of Centenary End of Great War Working Group

- 2.3 In light of Council's decision to support the establishment of a Working group to work with interested organisations including, veterans' groups, regimental associations and the local clergy, Members are invited to consider Elected Member and officer representation and Community interest groups' representation on the Working Group.

2.4 Funding

- 2.5 Council's Funding Unit is developing a draft programme of grant funding which will be progressed through the Leisure and Development Committee.

Committee is also asked to consider including budgetary provision in the upcoming rates process.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 That Council approves Elected Member/Officer representation and Community interest group representation on the Working Group which will report to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee including recommendation on budgetary provision.