

**Report of Managing Director**

**World War I Centenary**

**1 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 It was resolved by the resources committee on 13 September 2017, that a working group be set up to investigate possible opportunities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock VC, DSO and Two Bars, MC and Bar, and to consider other local events that may acknowledge the centenary of the end of World War I.
- 1.2 A financial contribution is being sought to cover the cost of an event for the signing over of the deeds, by the council, for the agreed transfer of land on which the 378 Mannock Squadron Air Training Corps Centre is built; and also for a suitably fitting plaque/memorial to recognise Major Edward (Mick) Mannock to be placed in Swanspool Gardens.

**2 Executive summary**

The World War I Centenary Working Party has explored possible projects and activities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock. Information has also been sought from local groups/ organisations/parishes/individuals in the borough of other local WWI centenary commemorate events that will take place during the year.

This report updates the committee on progress and asks for a small budget to be allocated for the proposed events as outlined in this report.

**3 Appendices**

There are no appendices attached to this report.

**4 Proposed action:**

**The committee is invited to**

- 4.1 **RESOLVE that the sum of £1,000.00 be approved for arrangements in relation to commemorating Major Edward (Mick) Mannock and the end of World War I.**

**5 Background**

- 5.1 It was agreed by the resources committee that the council transfer the land on

which the 378 Mannock Squadron Air Training Corps Centre is built to the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, with a restrictive covenant to limit its use to cadet training.

- 5.2 It was also agreed that the land be transferred during a presentation by the Mayor in 2018 to commemorate the end of World War I and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Major Edward (Mick) Mannock VC, DSO and Two Bars, MC and Bar; and to consider other local events that may acknowledge the centenary of the conclusion of World War I.
- 5.3 The committee also agreed that a working party be established to investigate other possible opportunities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock or the centenary of the conclusion of World War I.
- 5.4 The World War I Centenary Working Party was established and funding is now being sought, by the working party, for its proposed events.

## 5 Discussion

- 6.1 The working party considered different projects and activities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock's death and now seek approval from the resources committee for the sum of £1,000.00.
- 6.2 It has been proposed by the working party that an event be held, at the 378 Mannock Squadron Centre, on 26 July 2018 between 5pm and 7pm to sign over the deeds of the land followed by a Mick Mannock Afternoon Tea reception.
- 6.3 The head of estates at the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association has confirmed, in principle, that 26 July 2018 would be suitable for the event at the cadet centre.
- 6.4 The working party has also proposed that a suitably fitting plaque/memorial to recognise Major Edward (Mick) Mannock be placed in Swanspool Gardens.
- 6.5 The requested budget would be used to cover the cost of the event, including the reception, along with a plaque/memorial for Major Edward (Mick) Mannock in Swanspool Gardens.
- 6.6 The working group also discussed other low cost community engagement events, particularly with youth groups and schools, such as creating posters for display on veterans.
- 6.7 The managing director wrote to a number of local groups/ and organisations, including parishes in the borough, to seek information of other local WWI centenary commemorate events that will take place during the year. Responses have been received regarding forthcoming events being organised and the council is planning to publicise a timetable of "what's on" locally for the 2018 commemorations.
- 6.8 A full and final report in relation to the working party's arrangements for the WWI

centenary will be reported to the resources committee on 13 June 2018.

- 6.9 The budget is requested to allow the booking of the events and the purchase of the memorial to be progressed.

## 7 **Legal powers**

Local Government Act 1972

## 8 **Financial and value for money implications**

- 8.1 The budget will need to be allocated from reserves. Where possible internal budgets can be also used, such as printing and postages. The cost of the presentation and signing over of the property has minimal revenue costs, although the capital value of the property will be removed from the balance sheet. The cost of the catering is estimated at between £400 and £500. The cost of the memorial is estimated at approximately £400. The balance of the budget is partly contingency and partly for additional costs that can't be absorbed internally if, for example, printing needs to be outsourced.

## 9 **Risk analysis**

- 9.1 The main risk is reputational for the council. If the council does not commemorate this event then its reputation will be damaged and public perception and opinion will be adversely impacted.

## 10 **Implications for resources, equalities, and stronger and safer communities**

- 10.1 The main implication is for officer time to facilitate both the working group and the organisation of the events. This can be absorbed into current officer resources but may have an impact on other projects and tasks in the short term. There may be a need to reallocate resources to bid for external funding opportunities, such as those to refurbish the memorials. However, resources internally will be used where possible to accommodate this.

## 11 **Author and contact officer**

Liz Elliott, Managing Director.

## 12 **Consultee**

Fiona Hubbard, Democratic Services Officer (Mayoral).

## 13 **Background papers**

World War I Centenary Working Party Notes.