

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 NOVEMBER 2021

## REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND ELECTIONS

### A. MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR A COVID 19 MEMORIAL AND ANNUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

(Report prepared by Keith Durran and Ian Ford)

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report provides information on the motion submitted to Council on 13 July 2021 (minute 51 refers) by Councillor M Stephenson which sought to create a Covid-19 Memorial and Annual Day of Remembrance and to enable the Committee to decide whether to recommend, or not, that the Council should support the motion in its original format.

#### INVITEES

Councillor M Stephenson

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 (Referred Motions – Right of Mover to Attend Meeting), Councillor Stephenson has been notified to attend the meeting to answer any questions and/or points of clarification, if requested.

#### BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 13 July 2021 Council had before it a motion from Councillor M Stephenson where he put forward a request for the Council to create a Memorial and Annual day of Remembrance. The Motion had been submitted to Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12 and was worded as follows:-

*“That Tendring District Council acknowledges the heartache, pain and suffering that Covid-19 has inflicted upon our residents and their families and that this Council supports the provision of a memorial to allow us all to recognise and commemorate the loss of so many loved ones.*

*The memorial to be situated in a form acceptable to those who have lost loved ones, be that a garden, plaque or public artwork, taking into consideration their wishes, at a suitable location, where families could gather together throughout the year at a day and time significant to them.*

*That this Council also considers an Annual Day of Remembrance to be established, where all members of the community could gather together for a service of Remembrance.*

*In addition, the commemoration would also remember all those key workers and volunteers, who continue to provide, throughout this pandemic, help and support and comfort to the bereaved in their time of need.”*

#### **DETAILED INFORMATION**

At the meeting of the Council and in the absence of Councillor Stephenson, Councillor Bush had formally moved the motion. Councillor Baker had then formally seconded the motion.

Councillors Bush and Baker had then given their reasons why they felt that it would be appropriate for the motion to be dealt with at the meeting, namely that there would be a loss of impetus if it was not considered now and that in fact it would be timely to consider the motion at the meeting given the then imminent lifting of Covid-19 restrictions on 19 July 2021 and that in the rush to return to a sense of ‘normality’ there would be a loss of remembrance of the impact of the coronavirus on society.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock OBE), whilst not objecting to the principle of the Motion, had nevertheless requested that the Motion be referred to an appropriate body on the grounds that it would be wrong to rush to a decision on this motion particularly given that the ‘war on Covid’ had not yet been won and that Councillor Stephenson who had submitted the motion was not present to explain the purpose of the motion and to advocate for it. He had then suggested that the motion be referred to an overview and scrutiny committee for an examination in detail as it was important to get this sensitive issue right.

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor Bray) had then made his ruling on whether the motion should be dealt with at the meeting or stand referred. He had decided that the motion would be referred to the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the grounds that it was the appropriate body to examine the motion in detail and to report back to Council at a later date.

The motion had thereupon stood referred to the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee for its consideration in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 12.5 and 12.6.

Council Procedure Rule 12.5 (Referral of Motions) states that:-

*“Where a motion has been referred in accordance with Rule 12.4 the Cabinet or any relevant Committee shall (subject to the provisions of Rule 12.6) be required to consider such motion and to advise the Council (by no later than the second Ordinary Meeting of the Council held following the date of Council’s referral\*) of their opinion and reason as to whether such motion should be supported in its original format.*

*Prior to making its decision Cabinet or the relevant Committee may following consultation with Officers, require further information to be presented to them for consideration on the implications of the proposed motion. Such a report must be considered in a timely manner.*

*If the Cabinet or relevant Committee decides to advise the Council of its opinion that such motion in its original format should not be supported, the Cabinet or relevant Committee may, in addition, suggest to the Council that an amended motion be proposed.*

*Once Cabinet or any relevant Committee has considered the motion it will be referred back to Council with the recommendation. If an amended motion is proposed by Cabinet, or relevant Committee, when presented back to Council, the amended motion will be debated first, in accordance with Rule 16.5 and Rule 16.10 (b)."*

\* In this instance the relevant Full Council meeting is on 30 November 2021.  
The motion to which this report refers was originally received by this Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2021 (Minute 51 refers).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee decides whether to recommend, or not, that the Council should support the motion in its original format.**

**If the Committee decides to advise the Council that in its opinion the motion should not be supported in its original format it may, in addition, suggest to Council that an amended motion be proposed.**