

CABINET

27 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.8 COVID - 19 MEMORIAL

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Cabinet with an update regarding the proposal to erect a Covid 19 Memorial within Tendring.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Cabinet meeting on 25 February 2022 the Leader made the following announcement:

Covid-19 Memorial

Further to the decision taken by Full Council at its meeting held on 30 November 2021 (Minute 94 referred), the Leader of the Council informed Cabinet that he had requested the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships (Councillor Lynda McWilliams) to work with Councillor Mark Stephenson on the installation of a Covid-19 Memorial and to report back to Cabinet in due course. He urged them to ‘think positive and think big’ and gave by way of an example of a public art project the “Angel of the North”.

Following this decision Officers and Councillors worked together to explore the relevance and need for a large piece of public art in Clacton to reflect on lives lost and changed during the Covid 19 pandemic. The purpose of a piece of prominent art would provide communities with a space to reflect how communities have supported each other during times of challenge and uncertainty and create a space to represent lives lost. This work included background research, site visits and a bid to the Arts Council for funding.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- (a) Cabinet notes the contents of this report;
- (b) External funding streams continue to be pursued to install a piece of public art within the district as opportunities arise;
- (c) If successful a more general piece of public art, rather than a Covid 19 memorial maybe more likely as the availability of external funding streams appear to be linked to economic growth and tourism;
- (d) The Council’s general fund is not considered as the appropriate funding route for this project in light of current budgetary pressures and
- (e) To agree the Anglefield site for the installation of a piece of public art, if future funding can be secured.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)
1) The working group identified that Clacton, with the largest population in the district should be identified as the preferred area for the installation of the piece of public art. 2) Following a visit to various sites across Clacton with the Head of Public Realm a potential site was determined in the Clacton area. This site requires improvement and has the necessary space to install a piece of public art which could be viewed by residents and visitors to the district.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED
1) To engage a consultant, with specialist skills in public art to undertake this piece of research. 2) It should be noted that during 2022 the budget position within the Council changed and therefore the group decided to look for external funding for this project, rather than drawing on funds from internal resources, which could in turn have an impact on services to residents.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES
The Council's priority is to use Council assets to deliver priorities. As a Community Leader the Council was keen to consider a Covid 19 memorial, however since this time a number of communities have identified their own memorial spaces and some residents are using the various commemorative gardens around the District as their space for reflection.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT
Consultation and engagement included Councillors Mark Stephenson and Gina Placey alongside Councillor Lynda McWilliams, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships. Officers from across the Council included Planning, Assets, Public Realm, Economic Growth and Partnerships.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)			
Is the recommendation a Key Decision (See the criteria stated here)	NO	If yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income <input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)	

X	The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:
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Nothing further to add to the Report in addition to those comments made within the body.	
FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
Nothing further to add to the Report in addition to those comments made within the body.	
X	The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:
Nothing further to add to the Report in addition to those comments made within the body.	
USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY	
The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:	
A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	The piece of public art would incur an initial cost for design and build and also on-going costs associated with maintenance and up-keep.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including and	Governance processes to be followed if external funding can be secured.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	If an impressive piece of public art is installed not only, will it provide a memorial but if included in a wider installation of artwork, it could have a link to economic growth.
MILESTONES AND DELIVERY	
To be determined if a funding opportunity arises.	
ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION	
A piece of public art which is on Council land becomes a Council Asset and therefore the Council will be responsible for the upkeep of the asset. This particular asset would potentially be at risk from graffiti, anti-social behaviour and the natural weather elements.	
EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	
The piece of public art would aim to be as inclusive as possible, and Community Engagement would form part of the project brief.	
SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS	
The Public Art would be for the residents of Tendring and as part of the process Community Engagement regarding its design.	
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030	
One local artist was identified who works with recycled materials and mosaic, but this was not Councillors preferred design option. However, the climate impact could be part of the project brief.	
OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS	
Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.	
Crime and Disorder	Any piece of Public Art could be subject to vandalism and graffiti. The Public Art would be a Council asset and therefore the Council would be responsible for on-going maintenance costs.

Health Inequalities	At the height of the Covid 19 pandemic Tendring had the highest number of deaths with Covid recorded on death certificates. As of 11 November 2022 there have been 835 recorded deaths with Covid on the death certificate.
Area or Ward affected	All – although it is proposed that Clacton is the site for the Covid -19 memorial.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Following the Announcement by the Leader the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships met with Councillor Mark Stephenson and Councillor Gina Placey to determine the scope of this piece of work. Following this meeting a project group was established including Officers from across the various departments as follows:

- Partnerships
- Public Realm
- Assets
- Planning
- Economic Development and Regeneration

A tour of Clacton locations was undertaken with a preferred site identified. The Anglefield site on Clacton seafront was the preferred site and could provide a suitable location and tie in with the usual activities that take place on the seafront. It could also form a focal point that could be used as a directional tool for residents and visitors.

This site is in the conservation area of Clacton and Planning advice would need to be sought. Initial discussions with Planning indicate that formal Planning permission would be required to erect a piece of public art on the site. The Planning Officers also identified that there was a previous clock on this site.

Various designs were also discussed, and Appendix A provides details of other pieces of public art and costings.

Officers explored potential funding streams and an Expression of Interest for funding from the Arts Council Fund was submitted and was unsuccessful. Tendring is a priority place for the Arts Council and discussions are taking place to explore what impact this will have. The Arts Council have indicated that projects grants are a potential funding stream and projects are able to include public art.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

At the Cabinet meeting on 25 February 2022 the Leader made the following announcement by
Covid-19 Memorial

Further to the decision taken by Full Council at its meeting held on 30 November 2021 (Minute 94 referred), the Leader of the Council informed Cabinet that he had requested the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships (Councillor Lynda McWilliams) to work with Councillor Mark Stephenson on the

installation of a Covid-19 Memorial and to report back to Cabinet in due course. He urged them to 'think positive and think big' and gave by way of an example of a public art project the "Angel of the North".

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Examples of Public Art and Costings

Appendix B – Map of Anglefield Site in Clacton

Appendix C – Anglefield History, Clacton

Appendix D – Anglefield Site - Photos

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