

Public Memorials

Memorials Working Party	30 September 2020
Report Author	Director of Corporate Governance
Portfolio Holder	n/a
Status	For Recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to enable the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to review the schedules of memorials etc. to gain an understanding of the type and style of public memorials in Thanet. This review includes street and building names and other monuments in the district.

Then recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and to the Executive:

1. A draft system, process or criteria for reviewing memorials (e.g. statues, plaques, road-names and similar matters), to help to determine whether (if requested) a decision should be taken to either remove them or carry out some other act.

The Working Party may want to consider whether it needs advice, guidance or information from witnesses or consider best practice from other public bodies to assist its deliberations. That might include:

- Identifying existing ways of assessing memorials (e.g. the Public Sector Equality Duty)
- Identifying other criteria
- Identifying and seeking views of external experts or interested parties.

Recommendation(s):

1. The Working party considers, develops and recommends a draft system, process or criteria for reviewing memorials, to help to determine whether (if requested) a decision should be taken to either remove them or carry out some other act;
2. Forward that draft system etc. to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

There are no financial or value for money implications related to this report.

Legal

In undertaking any future review, consideration needs to be given to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

is contained

- Section 64 and 65 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847;
- Section 160 of the Public Health Act 1875;
- Section 21 of the Public Health Act 1907;
- Section 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925;
- The Local Government Act 1972.

In some cases planning permission or listed building consent may be required.

Corporate

There are no corporate implications that are not included elsewhere in the report.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

The active consideration of the three 'limbs' of the PSED are clearly very important in this matter. They are to :

- (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and
- (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- Communities

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the 21 July 2020 the Panel agreed to set up

a working party to consider the issues relating to the establishment of the council policy on criteria for reviewing street and building names and other monuments in the district.

- 1.2 This report is not about any particular street and building name or monument. It is about the criteria which the Working Party think that the Executive could take into account in any Thanet wide review of the relevance, suitability and acceptability of such street and building names or monuments.
- 1.2 It is anticipated that the Working Party would have a general discussion about this matter from which guidance criteria can be recommended.
- 1.3 The Working Party should also identify whether it requires additional evidence, witnesses or other information to assist it.
- 1.4 In the appendices are lists of the public memorials in Thanet.

2.0 Issues raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- 2.1 The Working Party may wish to consider the points raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, which were:
 - This was a significant issue;
 - It was important to consider as a community and as a society what the priorities are and how the community recognised and respected its members;
 - How society viewed its history is important, particularly if that involved recognising those communities who have been affected by racism;
 - The equality legislation should guide the work of the council in addressing this issue, particularly the aims contained in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010;
 - One of the criteria to consider was the time in which people lived, what they did the effect on society at that time;
 - Society should not hide their history. Instead the plaques should be left where they were and inform people what this was about and let people make up their own minds;
 - Public involvement in the decision making for addressing this issue is important;
 - Displaying in a museum is not necessarily an endorsement. However displaying something out in the community appears to be an endorsement;
 - It is important to speak to those groups of society that are affected by this issue.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 Criteria etc. will be drafted for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Executive for any review of public memorials.

3.2 The working party should report back any recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel by the end of October 2020, for onward submission to Cabinet.

Contact Officer: Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Reporting to: Madeline Homer, Chief Executive

Annex List

Annex 1: Details of Annex attached

Annex 2: Details of Annex attached

Annex 3: Details of Annex attached

Annex 4: Details of Annex attached

Annex 5: Details of Annex attached

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: *(Insert name and job title)*

Legal: Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer