



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

TOPIC – BATTLEFIELDS TRUST EXHIBITION

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Legal Services Manager, the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director: Resources are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Susan Robbins, Corporate Head of Engagement Tel: 01962 848461

Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel 01962 848235

SUMMARY

The Fields of Battle Trust (registered charity) approached the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire seeking interest in Winchester being host to its international touring photographic exhibition that commemorates World War 1 – entitled Lands of Peace 14-18. Winchester Cathedral has agreed to stage the outdoor exhibition in the Cathedral Outer Close as this fits with their plans to mark the 100 years since the War's end.

The cost of moving, staging and dismantling the exhibition is estimated to be £20,000. A request to co-fund this has been made to Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council. Hampshire County Council has approved its 50% contribution of £10,000.

Subject to Member approval of the grant, which falls outside the usual programme of community grants because of its size and the nature of the project, officers will prepare a Funding Agreement, setting out the Council's requirements and expectations. This will include the requirement to acknowledge in all publicity and promotion of the exhibition the contribution made by the Council. The Fields of Battle

Trust will also be required to communicate regularly with the Funding & Development Officer, the Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships and the Leader of the Council with regards to any public engagements/press calls with regards to the exhibition.

DECISION

That subject to the completion of a suitable funding agreement with the Fields of Battle Trust, a maximum grant of £10,000 from the Community Grant and Commissions reserve toward staging the exhibition for the month of July in the Cathedral Outer Close be made. Engagement

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The opportunity for Winchester to host an important touring exhibition has been presented by the Fields of Battle Trust. The following is a summary of the exhibition as given by Jonathan Prince, Trustee and CEO of the charity:

“Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace 14-18 was conceived in 2005 as a collaboration between photographer Mike St Maur Sheil and the eminent military historian, the late Professor Richard Holmes. The original intention was to create a book comprising landscape photographs of the battlefields of WW1 as they are today.

The first exhibition in 2014 was shared between Paris and London and since then it has developed as a unique fusion of art and history which has now been viewed by over 10 million people in nine different countries. Each year the exhibition is ‘reborn’ with a new theme.

For 2018 it will reflect the closing stages of the war and the impact of that war and the consequent peace agreements upon the history of the 20th-century and society today. It also seeks to show the global scale of the conflict which involved over fifty different nations, a fact which is seldom ever considered in the commemoration of the war.

The exhibition consists of fifteen ‘L’ shaped stands which present the viewer with over fifty large photographs, up to 2m wide. Together with over 20,000 words of especially written text and accompanying maps and archive pictures the exhibition presents an overview of the events of 1918 and explores the continuing conflicts which have been forgotten by history.”

Appendix 1 shows images of the exhibition in various locations as it has toured to major cities over the past four year.

The ability to host the exhibition is supported by Winchester Cathedral, where the Outer Close has been offered as a suitable location for the outdoor, free to access exhibition to take place over the month of July. It is difficult to predict the exact number of visitors this will attract, but it does have the potential to be seen by over 50,000 people. This is based on the fact that in July 2017 the Cathedral welcomed

40,700 visitors and the average monthly footfall to the Tourist Information Centre is 12,000 people. The exhibition will form part of a programme of events and activities being organized by local attractions and cultural facilities and the Council will collate information about these events and make it available via the recently refurbished tourist information centre and digital marketing channels (tourism and City Council websites and social media) to enable visitors and residents to mark the 100 years since the Armistice in a number of ways.

Hampshire County Council has agreed to co-fund the exhibition stating “This is seen as an excellent opportunity for the County Council to support this important commemoration on top of the other plans it is putting in place in its own right.”

The total estimated project cost is £20,000; this will pay for:

- Exhibition contractor (£10,000)
 - relocation of the exhibition to site,
 - set up / construction / installation,
 - dismantling and removal,
- Fields of Battle Trust (£10,000)
 - project management at pre, during and close of exhibition.

Winchester City Council will contribute a maximum grant of £10,000, with actuals paid on evidence of contractor and project management expenditure.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The maximum £10,000 grant will be made from the community grants and commissions reserve. The current level of uncommitted reserves stands £57,351 and so there are funds available to cover this one-off cost within the 2018-19 budget.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

No consultation has taken place. However the Head of Finance at Hampshire County Council was asked and has provided information on the Council’s decision on the co-funding request to ensure consistency across both organisations.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

Not applicable.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Not applicable

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 20/06/2018

Councillor Robert Humby – Portfolio Holder for Business Partnership

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Summary (with images) of the Field of Battle 14-18 – Lands of Peace exhibition

Fields of Battle Lands of Peace 14-18



Introduction

In 1918 a young British officer, P.J. Campbell viewed the shattered lands of the Somme and wrote of the men who had died there,

“No they would not be lonely, there were too many of them. I saw that bare country before me...the miles and miles of torn earth, the barbed wire, the litter, the dead trees. But the country would come back to life, the grass would grow again, the wild flowers return, and trees where now there were only splintered skeleton stumps.

They would lie still and at peace below the singing larks, beside the serenely flowing rivers. They could not feel lonely, they would have one another. And they would have us also, ... We belonged to them, and they would be a part of us for ever.”

Inspired by these words, photographer Michael St Maur Sheil in conjunction with renowned military historian, the late Professor Richard Holmes, conceived the idea of a series of outdoor photographic exhibitions to enable ease of access for the greatest number of people.

These exhibitions seek to explore how Campbell’s vision has come true as time and nature have indeed healed the wounds of war and this project is unique as the only truly international arts and history project dealing with the First World War.

The exhibitions have evolved during the centenary years to reflect the events of each passing year and they have been seen by over eight million people in nine different countries.

Since 2014 photographer Michael St Maur Sheil has producing a series of exhibitions, each reflecting the events of the centenary and exploring how Campbell’s vision has come true as time and nature have indeed healed the wounds of war.

Previous Exhibitions

The first exhibition in 2014 was hosted by the French Senat and displayed on the railings of Les Jardins du Luxembourg where it was seen by over two million visitors.



It then moved to St. James's Park in London where it was opened by HRH Duke of Kent and during its four month display was seen by almost 2.2 million visitors



In 2015 Michael was commissioned by the Turkish government to create an exhibition for the opening event of the commemoration of the Gallipoli campaign which was attended by heads of state and representatives from over fifty countries.

In 2016 an especial SOMME100 exhibition was the first photographic exhibition ever to be mounted in the City of London Guildhall Yard and it was accompanied by a series of public lectures and especial visits by schools as part of a history project sponsored by the London Stock Exchange,



At the same time, in order to honour the French alliance, an especial exhibition was mounted in the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral and this was the only such exhibition to be created in the U.K. which marked the ten month battle of Verdun.



After its closure in London the SOMME100 exhibition was moved to the grounds of Belfast City Hall.



Directly it finished in Belfast it made history when it was mounted in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin as this was the first time that any exhibition about the British Army had been shown in Dublin. St. Stephen's Green was itself a battlefield during the 1916 Easter Rising so this exhibition was a real symbol of reconciliation.



Indeed the exhibition was so well received that it was then transferred to the Glasnevin Cemetery where it stayed for over three months.



In 2017 the exhibition has told the story of the American *Doughboys* and thanks to the generous sponsorship of the US National WWI Museum and Memorial it has been shown in six cities in the UK and is currently touring the US where it will be visiting Atlanta, Chicago and New York in the next twelve months.

The *Doughboys* on Tour in the UK & US



Kansas City



Belfast City Hall



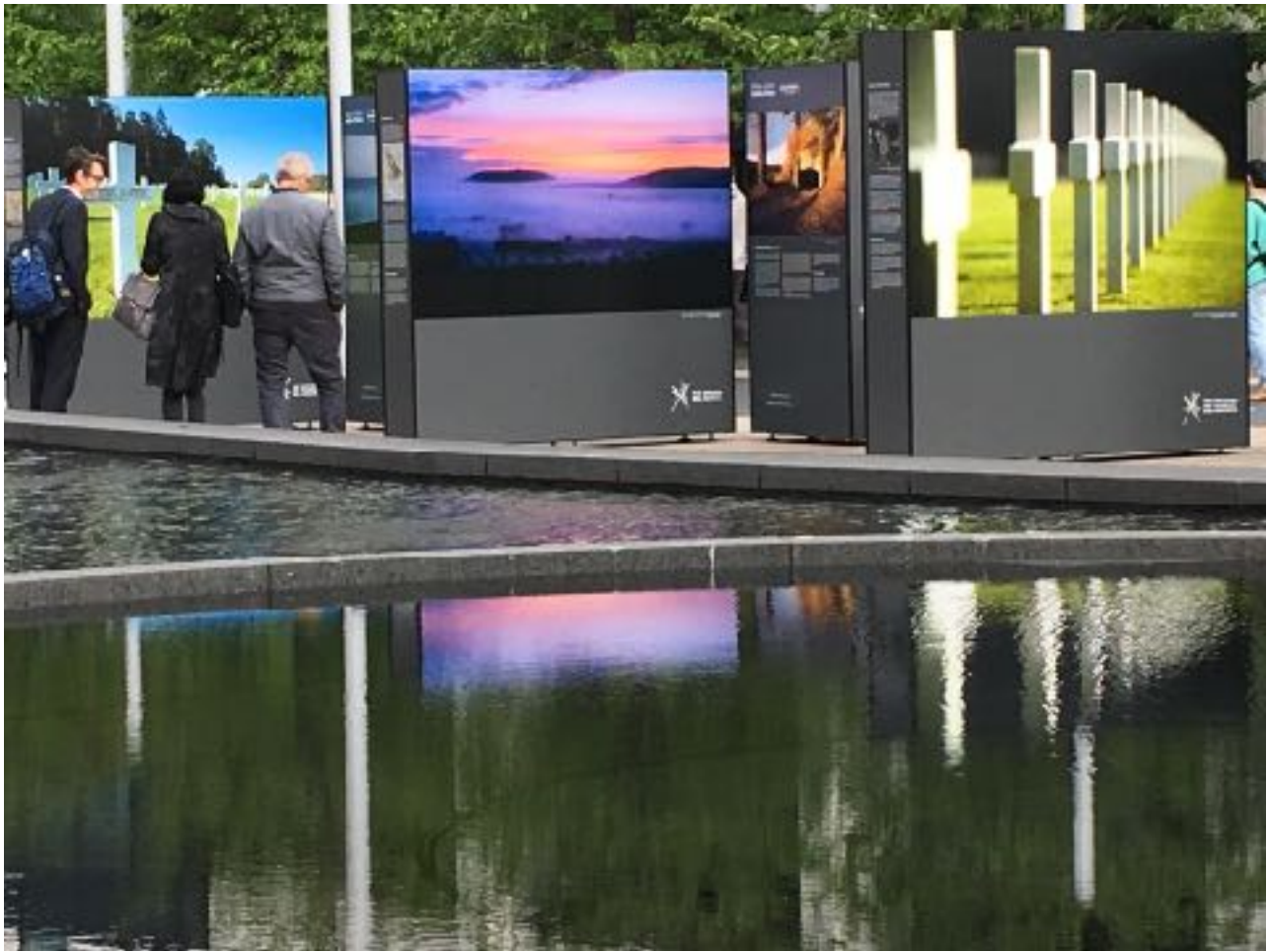
City of London - The Guildhall



Cardiff - Welsh National Assembly



Edinburgh -
Arthur's Seat in
the background



And finally Liverpool where the exhibition was officially viewed by 1,689,017 people!!

