



# BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS

## Briefing Note

### Ref:13/12-03

### All Members

<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	Assistant Chief Executive
<b>SUBJECT</b>	WWI Centenary Commemorations
<b>REASON FOR BRIEFING NOTE</b>	To inform Members of potential commemorations for 2014, being the centenary of the start of WW1.
<b>BRIEFING NOTE</b>	<p>As Members will be aware 2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of WWI.</p> <p>The Council will undoubtedly wish to engage with commemorations and initial contact has been established with the Government's WWI Steering Group, the remit of which is to provide co-ordination for commemorations taking place on the Island. The Steering Group, chaired by the Director of Manx National Heritage, has had an initial meeting and is due to meet again in January 2014. A webpage has been set up on the Government's website to share information <a href="http://www.gov.im/commemoration">http://www.gov.im/commemoration</a>. Liaison between the Council and the Steering will continue.</p> <p>In the meantime, in respect of the Council's involvement, a number of potential initiatives are being progressed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Library will be holding a display of WWI photographs (retained from the Council's Library archives) in July;</li><li>• Matthew Richardson, Curator of Social History at Manx National Heritage, and expert on military history will be holding a public lecture at the Library in July on his latest WWI publication 'This Terrible Ordeal' – containing letters, diaries and</li></ul>

personal stories from WWI;

- Parks' section will be creating swathes of poppies along the main arterial routes into Douglas, and a large floral poppy will be cut into the banking at Douglas Head, which it is envisaged will be visible from key points in Douglas;
- Parks' section will be reinstating 100+ hanging baskets along the Promenade and theming these red. This will also be an initiative as part of the Island of Culture 2014;
- Parks' section will be theming carpet bedding (in consultation with MNH), commemorating the highest awarded honour for a Manxman in WWI;
- Royal British Legion have been consulted regarding the possibility of siting a large temporary poppy display point (meeting with Royal British Legion Area Manager to be held in January/February);
- Possible refurbishment of St Matthews' Church War Memorial (awaiting further information);
- Horse tram cavalcade in August, to be themed WWI and/or Island of Culture;
- The Council's War Memorials will continue to be maintained in good order (no major work required). The Council retains links with the Government's War Memorials Committee;
- The operational initiatives above will be accommodated within existing revenue budgets. For any projects such as the St Matthews Church Memorial refurbishment, or other significant schemes, budget will need to be identified.

Members may wish to make a diary note in respect of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014, which marks the actual centenary date of Britain's declaration of war.

	Should Members have any views or potential projects, then it would be helpful if these could be advised to the Assistant Chief Executive or the Assistant Town Clerk in the first instance.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None

<b>AUTHOR OF BRIEFING NOTE</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>APPROVED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>23rd December 2013</b>

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