

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 16 December 2019

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Arrangements for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the proposals for commemorating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day in May 2020.

Executive summary:

In May 2020 the early May Day Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. There is a planned series of national events over three days from Friday 8 through to Sunday 10 May.

Fareham has a history of recognising significant dates relating to WW1 and WW2. As such officers have been asked to explore an appropriate way for the Council to mark VE Day.

Officers have identified two proposals as stated below:

- (i) For a new, appropriately designed commemorative seat to be installed at a location to be determined within the Borough.
- (ii) For the Council to provide a level of financial support to enable Lee Flying Association and Regional City Airports (RCA), to subsidise pre-1955 aircraft visiting Solent Airport on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 May.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees:

- (a) that a commemorative seat to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day be designed and installed at a location to be determined;
- (b) that once officers have researched options for where the seat can be located, delegated authority is given to the Executive Leader to determine the seat's final location.

(c) to provide some financial support to enable Lee Flying Association and RCA to welcome aircraft pre-dating 1955 to visit Solent Airport over the VE weekend; and

(d) that the project will be funded from existing budgets, to the sum of £12,000.

Reason:

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Cost of proposals:

The cost of the proposals will be approximately £12,000. This would be met from existing budgets.

Appendices: **A: Design for VE commemorative seat**

Background papers: **None**

Reference Papers: **None**

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	16 December 2019
Subject:	Arrangements for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day
Briefing by:	Director of Leisure and Community
Portfolio:	Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the proposals that are planned to take place to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

BACKGROUND

2. In May 2020 the early May Day Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.
3. VE Day was the day towards the end of World War II when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe.
4. The Bank Holiday on Friday 8 May will be the beginning of a three-day weekend of events in the UK to mark this significant anniversary.
5. Fareham has a history of marking significant dates connected with World War 1 and World War II. As such, officers have been asked to put forward a proposal to commemorate VE Day 75.

PROPOSALS

6. In order for the Council to provide a fitting tribute, the following proposals are suggested to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Commemorate Seat

7. It has become customary to commemorate important landmark dates with a piece of public art. Following this pattern, a commemorative seat has been designed by a local artist. A copy of the design concept has been marked Appendix A.
8. The seat comprises of three separate elements with the middle section facing the opposite direction. The seating to the left is engraved 1945, the back of the middle section bears the letters 'VE' and the seating to the right is engraved 2020. The colour of the seat will be aged bronze.

9. It is proposed that the seat would be unveiled by the Mayor of Fareham on Monday 4th May as part of a Civic event.
10. A plaque would be secured to the seat noting the date it was unveiled and what it represents.
11. Westbury Manor will host a small VE Day exhibition in the library from Monday 4th May to Friday 22 May.
12. A new 'VE Day branded' webpage will be added to the Council's website to provide information and guidance for the community about celebrating VE day and how to arrange street parties.

Financial support for RCA and Lee Flying Association

13. Lee Flying Association is working with RCA to encourage pre-1955 aircraft to visit the Solent Airport over the VE weekend of the 8 May. Visiting aircraft would be parked on the grass area outside the control tower and may be viewed by the public for free from the viewing area.
14. RCA has requested funding from the Council of approximately £2000, this would enable landing fees to be waived for up to 10 qualifying aircraft each day and for an additional two members of staff, as they will be required to manage the additional aircraft and public that are expected to visit the airport over the commemorative, bank holiday weekend.
15. Lee Flying Association and Gosport Aviation Society would also provide information stands for the public to view over the weekend, providing information on the history of the airfield and VE Day.
16. All VE Day activities at Solent Airport will be managed by RCA. Information about visiting aircraft to be shared with the Council's communications team in advance so that it can be promoted through the Council's social media channels.

PROJECTED BUDGET

17. The table below outlines the projected costs for all elements detailed within this report.

Project	Cost
Commemorative seat including; design, build and installation	£8,000
Commemorative event	£2000
Subsidy for landing fees for aircraft pre - 1955	£1,000
Staffing costs for RCA to support the VE activities	£1000
Total cost	£12,000

RISK ASSESSMENT

18. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. The total cost of the project is £12,000 which can be met from existing budgets.

CONCLUSION

20. The Council would like to provide a fitting tribute to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day next year. It is proposed that a commemorative seat is installed and unveiled at a civic event.

21. In addition, the Council has the opportunity to support Lee Flying Association and RCA in their efforts to attract pre-1955 aircraft to Solent Aircraft over the VE weekend for the enjoyment of the general public.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Watts, Leisure and Community Manager on ext. 4440