

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision 17 June 2020

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Arrangements for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the proposals for commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day in August 2020.

#### **Executive summary:**

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day takes place on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Commemoration events will be taking place across the UK to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Fareham has a history of marking significant dates connected with World War I and World War II and officers have been asked to explore an appropriate way for the Council to mark VJ Day 75.

To mark this anniversary, officers propose;

- I. For a new, appropriately designed VJ Day commemorative seat, to complement the VE Day commemorative seat, be installed at Daedalus Common
- II. For a small commemorative event to take place, where both seats, the Daedalus gate guardian and the Daedalus play area be unveiled/opened by the Mayor of Fareham on a date to be determined.

#### **Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Leisure and Community is asked to consider;

- (a) that a VJ commemorative seat to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day be designed and installed at Daedalus Common; and
- (b) that the project is funded from the community grants budget, to the sum of £9,500.

**Reason:**

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day.

**Cost of proposals:**

The cost of the proposals will be £9,500. This would be met from the community grants budget.

**Appendices:**

**A: Designs of VJ Day 75 commemorative seat**

**B: Site location plan**

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### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Arrangements for the 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Executive Member for Leisure and Community of the proposals that are planned to take place to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day.

#### BACKGROUND

2. Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day.
3. VJ Day was the day on which Imperial Japan surrendered in World War II, effectively bringing the war to an end.
4. Commemoration events will be taking place across the UK to mark this significant anniversary.
5. Fareham has a history of marking significant dates connected with World War I and World War II, and officers have been asked to put forward a proposal to commemorate VJ Day 75.

#### PROPOSAL

6. In order for the Council to provide a fitting tribute, the following proposal is suggested to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day.

#### Commemorative Seat

7. It is customary in Fareham, to commemorate important landmark dates with a piece of public art. Following this pattern, earlier in the year, a VE Day seat was installed at Daedalus Common and positioned close to where the gate guardian will be situated.
8. A second, commemorative seat has now been designed by a local artist to commemorate VJ Day. A copy of the design concept has been marked Appendix A.
9. The seat is similar in size to the VE Day 75 seat, comprising of three separate elements with the middle section facing the opposite direction. The colour of the seat will be aged bronze, which is the same as the VE Day seat.

10. The location for the VJ Day 75 seat has been marked on the location plan, marked Appendix B.
11. A plaque would be mounted alongside the VJ Day seat noting the date it was unveiled and what it represents.
12. A new 'VJ Day branded' webpage will be added to the Council's website to provide information and guidance for the community about celebrating VJ Day.
13. When the VE Day seat was designed, a date was set for its unveiling in May. However, this was not permitted due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is therefore proposed that a combined event is planned at a suitable future date to unveil the VE Day seat, the VJ Day seat, the gate guardian and the Daedalus play area. The event will take place at a date to be determined and will be subject to government advice and guidelines regarding mass gatherings and events.

### **PROJECTED BUDGET**

14. The table below outlines the projected cost for all elements detailed within this report.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Commemorative seat including; design, build and installation	£9,000
Commemorative plaque	£500
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£9,500</b>

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

16. The total cost of the project is £9,500 which can be met from the community grants budget.

### **CONCLUSION**

17. The Council would like to provide a fitting tribute to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day this year. It is proposed that a commemorative seat is installed and unveiled at a civic event in August 2020.

### **Enquiries:**

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