

Committee: Police (For information) Policy and Resources (For Decision) Finance (For Decision)	Date: 1 December 2015 10 December 2015 15 December 2015
Subject: Police Arboretum Memorial Trust – New National Memorial Project	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information/Decision

Summary

1. The City of London Corporation has been invited to become a founding partner of a project being run by the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust (the Trust). The aim of the project is to create a national memorial that pays tribute to the UK's Police Service and honours the dedication, courage and sacrifice of the officers who have died in service.
2. The Trust launched an appeal to raise £4m to fund the initiative at the beginning of the year. The initiative contains four overall objectives:-
 - the creation of a new monument at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire;
 - refreshing the existing memorial, known as "The Beat" at the NMA;
 - the creation of a digital, interactive, memorial; and
 - the development of a living memorial i.e. the creation of a fund to support the families of the fallen as an when a tragic event occurs.
3. Since the announcement of the project early this year, the Trust has raised approximately £2.8m from a number of sponsors. It is now keen for the City Corporation to consider supporting the project also by becoming a founding partner and contributing £250,000 towards the initiative the cost of which could be spread over three to five years.

Recommendation(s)

1. The Police Committee is asked to note the content of the report and forward any comments it wishes to make to the Policy and Resources Committee.
2. The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to:-
 - consider the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust's request for a contribution in the sum of £250,000 in support of the Trust's project to create a new national memorial that pays tribute to the UK's Police Service and honours those officers who have died in service, together with any comments made by the Police Committee; and
 - if supported, agree that the funding is spread over five years;

- the funding for Year 1 (£50,000 in 2015/16) be met from the Finance Committee's City's Cash Contingency, subject to the approval of that Committee; and
- the funding for the remaining four years be met by adjusting the base budget of this Committee (i.e. City's Cash).

Main Report

Background

1. Since the creation of policing over 4,000 men and women have given their lives to serve and protect UK communities. In addition, there have been substantial losses in British Colonial and other UK administered forces overseas. The Police Arboretum Memorial Trust (the Trust) has therefore developed an ambitious project to create a national memorial to pay tribute to the UK's Police Service and to honour the dedication, courage and sacrifice of the officers who have died in service.
2. On 15th January 2015, the Trust launched its appeal to raise £4m to fund the creation of a UK Police Memorial. At the launch the Chancellor also announced that the Treasury would be contributing £1m to the development of the new memorial, stating that:-

"The UK is the birthplace of modern Policing. Policing is our gift to the world; our Police service is respected and admired throughout the world for its professionalism, its commitment to our protection and its service to our nation. It is therefore fitting that we have a memorial to the Service and to the thousands of men and women who have given their lives for us and our communities."

3. A new physical memorial is to be located at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire. The intention is that it will complement other memorials around the country, notably the National Police Memorial at the Mall and both "The Beat" and the Police Memorial Garden, which are already located at the NMA.
4. The National Police Memorial located at the Mall was created following the tragic shooting and death of Yvonne Fletcher in 1984. Its location has been problematic as it does not easily lend itself to major events and commemorative gatherings; nor does it allow quiet contemplation and remembrance by families and they are keen to see this issue addressed. By contrast, the NMA in Staffordshire is conveniently situated and is designed for major events as well as individual reflection.

Proposal

5. The UK Police Memorial project aims to develop the world's first memorial to marry both the digital and physical. It will have four elements:-
 - the creation of a new monument at the NMA;
 - refreshing the existing memorial at the NMA, known as "The Beat";
 - creating a digital, interactive, memorial; and

- developing a living memorial by creating a fund to support the families of the fallen as and when a tragic event occurs.
6. In addition, an educational programme and a national campaign aimed at fostering better understanding and an appreciation of policing will be developed as part of the project.

The New Monument

7. The new monument will honour the fallen and pay tribute to the sacrifice of the men and women who have served and continue to serve the nation and its communities. It will be a place of ceremony, remembrance and quiet reflection, which can engender a national sense of pride and value in the UK's Police service. The monument will be located at the UK's national place for year round remembrance at the NMA. Whilst a number of design concepts are in the process of being developed they will be subject to an extensive consultation exercise with Police and members of the public. The expectation is that it will be erected in 2017-18.
8. Members will note that four members of the City Police died from gunshot wounds sustained during the Sydney Street Siege in December 1910, and more recently, an officer died on active service when he collapsed after conducting an arrest in December 1993. If Members were minded to support the recommendations arising from this report, research will be conducted to establish City of London Police Officers who qualify for commemoration in the Police Arboretum.

“The Beat”

9. “The Beat” is an avenue of trees listing some of the names of the fallen. Care of Police Survivors, a leading police charity, care for it. The avenue now looks very tired. The trees are unhealthy and the area is poorly irrigated. As part of the UK Police Memorial project “The Beat” is to be redeveloped and improved. It will also be re-sited to support the Trust's vision of the avenue leading to a new memorial.

A Digital Memorial

10. In order to extend its reach nationally and internationally the new memorial will be complemented by digital technology. It will be the first of its kind to merge both physical and digital aspects by for example:-
- Enhancing visitor experience to the memorial using technology
 - Raising awareness of the purpose of the physical memorial in the wider population
 - using digital activity to enhance the physical structure but not interacting with it
 - Developing educational based activities for school aged groups
 - Remembrance specifically for the police family audience

11. The digital aspects must pass the test of time and not be reliant on particular technologies. It will focus on the memorial story through a series of narratives able to be updated cost effectively.

A Living Memorial

12. The final element of the UK Police Memorial project is to make resources available to support the families of the fallen as and when these tragic events occur. The intention is that this will be created in partnership with organisations such as the National Association of Chaplains to the Police.

Unveiling of the Design for the Memorial

13. Since the announcement of the project earlier this year, the Trust has raised approximately £2.8m from a number of sponsors including the Treasury, which contributed £1m. Nearly all Police Forces via their Police and Crime Commissioners and the wider Police community (e.g. Police Mutual Assurance and the National Police Chiefs Council). The Trust is of the view that if the City Corporation supports the project also by agreeing to its request for a contribution of £250,000, the gesture would add to its fund raising momentum. It will assist in raising the remaining sum by inspiring other companies or grant making bodies to support the project also.
14. As mentioned above, currently a number of design concepts are being explored in respect of the actual monument. A major event is to be hosted by the Drapers Company in Drapers Hall on 24th February 2016 to unveil the design (both physical and digital) of the new memorial and to thank partners who have helped the Trust achieve success. A national media campaign will also be launched at that event to help members of the public and a number of other activities are also being explored for the event.

Conclusion

14. The sacrifices made by the members of the Police services to serve and protect our communities deserve to be acknowledged. It is therefore fitting that they are honoured by having a national place of remembrance and celebration one, which easily lends itself to major events, commemorative gatherings and quiet contemplation by families. The new UK Police Memorial project proposals will deliver this.
15. Supporting the Trust's request will also help to demonstrate further the City Corporation's commitment to working in partnership and collaboratively with other organisations to deliver national projects, which are both worthy and innovative.

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