

Committee: Policy and Resources	Date: 17 November, 2016
Subject: Police Arboretum Memorial Trust – Fundraising Dinner	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

The City of London Corporation is 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 which pays tribute to the UK's Police Service and honours the dedication, courage and sacrifice of the officers who have died in service. The Trust launched an appeal to raise £4m to fund the initiative at the beginning of 2015. The project includes 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 creation of a fund to support the families of the fallen as an when a tragic event occurs known as a 'living memorial'. Since the announcement of the project last year, the Trust is close to raising £4m with the City Corporation contributing £250,000 following the Committee's decision to support the initiative in December 2015. It is now further proposed that the City Corporation host a fundraising dinner at Guildhall to help the Trust reach its fundraising target as part of the City's commitment to recognising the importance of policing across the UK.

Recommendation

To agree to host a fundraising dinner at Guildhall for the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust at a cost not exceeding £30,000 to be allocated from the Committee's Contingency for 2016/17 and charged to City's Cash.

Main Report

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. As Members will recall, 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.

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.

Proposal

4. It is proposed that the City Corporation should host a fundraising dinner at Guildhall for the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust at a cost not exceeding £30,000 to be allocated from the Committee’s Contingency for 2016/17 charged to City’s Cash. This dinner would help the Trust reach its fundraising target as part of the City’s commitment to recognising the importance of policing across the UK. The Trust’s fundraising target has proven to be more difficult to attain than initially hoped, hence no provisions have been made in relevant departmental business plans and local risk budgets. The current uncommitted balance available within the Fund for 2016/17 is £202,200 prior to any allowance being made for other proposals on today’s agenda.

Conclusion

5. 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. 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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