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| <b>Title of Report:</b>                    | <b>VE Day 2025</b>                                 |
| <b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>      | <b>Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                    | <b>11 December 2024</b>                            |
| <b>For Decision or For Information</b>     | <b>For Decision</b>                                |
| <b>To be discussed In Committee YES/NO</b> |  |
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| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b> |                                |
| Strategic Theme                              | Leader and Champion            |
| Outcome                                      |                                |
| Lead Officer                                 | Director of Corporate Services |

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| <b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b> |                          |
| Date to be Completed                      | 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 |

|                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Budgetary Considerations</b>    |                                |
| Cost of Proposal                   | TBC                            |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | <b>YES/NO Included 2025/26</b> |
| Capital/Revenue                    | Revenue                        |
| Code                               | 3106*                          |
| Staffing Costs                     |                                |

|                                  |               |
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| <b>Legal Considerations</b>      |               |
| Input of Legal Services Required | <b>YES/NO</b> |
| Legal Opinion Obtained           | <b>YES/NO</b> |

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| <b>Screening Requirements</b>     | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. |        |       |
| Section 75 Screening              | Screening Completed:   | Yes/No | Date: |
|                                   | EQIA Required and Completed:   | Yes/No | Date: |
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)      | Screening Completed  | Yes/No | Date: |
|                                   | RNA Required and Completed:  | Yes/No | Date: |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Screening Completed:   | Yes/No | Date: |
|                                   | DPIA Required and Completed:   | Yes/No | Date: |

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a Draft Programme for VE Day 2025 for consideration and approval.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, Council resolved to agree the following Notice of Motion:

*“8th May 2025 will be the 80 year anniversary of VE Day where Nazi Germany officially surrendered, and World War 2 came to an end in Europe. I propose that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council organise and host a programme of events fitting to commemorate Victory in Europe Day on Thu 8th May 2025 - a programme that should be a spectacular celebration as well as remembering those who gave their all for all of us.”*

- 2.2 The revised Terms of Reference for the former Coronation Sub-Committee was updated and agreed at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, to include commemorating VE Day 2025. It was also agreed to rename the Coronation Sub-Committee to Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee.

## **3.0 Draft VE Day Programme 2025**

- 3.1 Officers are now working towards delivering a programme of activity. The initial Draft VE Day Programme is attached at Appendix A, for consideration and approval.
- 3.2 This Programme will be updated as and when activities have been agreed.
- 3.3 The VE Day Anniversary Guide is included in Appendix B, along with correspondence received in relation to Bell Ringers Appendix C, and Animals that serviced, Appendix D.

## **4.0 Financial Implication**

- 4.1 A budget should be agreed in order to progress with activities associated with VE Day.
- 4.2 Consideration should be given to the financial implications as part of the Estimates process for 2025-26. A total budget of £40K has been proposed as part of the 2025/26 rates setting process to include

activities and expenditure associated with the Commemorative Sub Committee.

## **5.0 Equality Implications**

5.1 The Commemoration Programme will be screened in accordance with the Council's Policies and Procedures.

## **6.0 Other considerations**

6.1 Members should note that the VE Day event coincides with the NW200. The 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 is race day, road closures will be in place which may impact on planned activities for VE Day.

## **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 **It is recommended** that the draft Programme for VE Day 2025 is approved and that work commences in order to agree activities and to research costs and methods of delivery.

## Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee

### Draft VE Programme 2025

|   | <p>The role of the Sub Committee is to act as an advisory group, supporting the development of a proposed programme of activity to recognise commemorative and celebratory occasions.</p> <p>To identify resource requirements to deliver an agreed programme of activity <i>and commemoration</i>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To share best practice in terms of wider initiatives and approaches;</li> <li>• To promote co-ordination and collaboration in terms of delivery of a range of activity, avoiding duplication of effort.</li> </ul> |             |                |
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| What  | Details   | Responsible | Estimated Cost |
| <p><b>Notice of Motion (Three)</b></p> <p><i>“8th May 2025 will be the 80 year anniversary of VE Day where Nazi Germany officially surrendered, and World War 2 came to an end in Europe. I propose that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council organise and host a programme of events fitting to commemorate Victory in Europe Day on Thu 8th May 2025 - a programme that should be a spectacular celebration as well as remembering those who gave their all for all of us.”</i></p> |   |             |                |

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| <p>Suggestions by the proposer of the motion, Cllr Huggins</p> <p>So we in this Borough should, like in the past, hang up the bunting, hold a street party and put on a military parade to include a special silence to commemorate our fallen soldiers. The event should be held in an area where a military parade can take place and hold a short fitting remembrance service which should be open to all veterans, veterans' groups, etc, within the Borough and beyond.</p> <p>This should be followed by a fitting celebration including entertainment; for example, children from all nationalities and backgrounds showcasing on stage, choirs, dancing and reenactment acts.</p> <p>Vendors should be invited to attend to show off their wares and food vendors should also be encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Military bands and vehicles should all be invited to attend to take part in the display.</p> <p>On a wider note, the Museum Service should actively reach out to local schools to include them in the celebrations, maybe holding a competition with winners being announced at the event.</p> |  |                       |  |
| <p>Also reading from today's news and the correspondence received by Council, it is understood</p>   | <p>The suggested location for the Beacon Lighting event is The Diamond, Coleraine in</p> | <p>Mayor's Office</p> |  |

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| <p>that a request has been issued to Councils by Pageantmaster Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR to organise a range of activities culminating in simultaneous beacon lighting ceremonies on 8th May. He is encouraging all of the aforementioned ideas, followed by a proclamation and lighting of beacons and lamp lights of peace at 2130 hrs on 8th May 2025</p> | <p>a similar format for the D Day 80 event in June 2024.</p> <p>Tribute to be read by Group 10 RBL President.</p> <p>Beacon to be lit by HMLL.</p> <p>Choir to be invited to perform 'I Vow to Thee my Country'.</p> <p>Group 10 RBLs and other local associations to be invited and represented by their Standard Bearers, along with Army cadets, Coleraine Air Cadets and Portrush Sea Cadets</p> <p>Contact to be made with any surviving WWII veterans who were presented with a silver poppy in 2020</p> <p>Local churches to be contacted and asked to ring their bell at 6.30 pm.</p> <p>VE Day 80 flag to be flown at Coleraine Town Hall.</p> |  |  |
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