

Title of Report:	VE Day 2025
Committee Report Submitted To:	Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee
Date of Meeting:	05 February 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	8 th May 2025

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

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	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 1st 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 22nd 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 Draft VE Day Programme is attached at Appendix A, for consideration and approval.
- 3.2 This Programme continues to be updated as and when activities have been agreed.

4.0 Financial Implication

- 4.1 A budget of £20K had previously be agreed in order to progress with activities associated with the Commemoration and Celebration Sub Committee’s work which includes the VE Day Event.
- 4.2 Consideration has also been given to the financial implications of the Commemoration and Celebration Sub Committee’s work 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 going forward.

5.0 Equality Implications

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

6.0 Other considerations

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

7.0 Consultation Meeting

A Consultation meeting took place on 29 January 2025 at Coleraine Town Hall with various Stakeholder representatives in attendance.

A draft Programme was considered and agreed and is now attached at Appendix B.

A further meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 February 2025.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 **It is recommended** that work continues by Officers on the draft Programme for VE Day 2025 in order to provide the agreed activities 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"> • To share best practice in terms of wider initiatives and approaches; • To promote co-ordination and collaboration in terms of delivery of a range of activity, avoiding duplication of effort. 		
What	Details	Responsible	Estimated Cost
<p>Notice of Motion (Three)</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>			

<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>	

<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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VE 80 Day

08 May 2025

	Draft Programme
	<p>Wartime Exhibition in Coleraine Town Hall</p> <p>Schools' Competition being arranged with the winning piece being showcased at the Exhibition</p>
Afternoon	<p>Tea Dance</p> <p>Venue to be confirmed</p>
6:00pm	Military Village to be in-situ on Queen Street
6:30pm	Church Bells to ring
6:35pm	<p>Programme of Entertainment (work in progress) to commence in the Events Space outside Coleraine Town Hall.</p> <p>To include:</p> <p>Leading Ladies</p> <p>Victoria Lagan Dance and Drama</p> <p>Stage</p> <p>MC</p> <p>Picnic Tables</p> <p>Bunting etc</p>

8:00pm	Parade to leave Coleraine Leisure Centre
8:30pm	Parade to arrive at The Diamond
8:30pm	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
8:45pm	Entertainment to recommence
???	Flypast – to be confirmed
9:15pm	Choir at War Memorial
9:30pm	Lighting of Beacon by HMLL
9:45pm	Event Ends