

Title of Report:	VE Day 2025
Committee Report Submitted To:	Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee
Date of Meeting:	02 April 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 VE Day Action Plan 2025

- 3.1 Officers are now working towards delivering a programme of activity. The VE Day Action Plan is attached at Appendix A.

4.0 Financial Implication

- 4.1 A budget of £40K was agreed for 2025/26 in order to progress with activities associated with the Commemoration and Celebration Sub Committee’s work which includes the VE Day Event.

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.
- 6.2 Mervyn Whyte, NW200 Event Director has confirmed that a minute's silence will be observed prior to racing on the evening of Thursday 08 May 2025 with the riders and officials being invited to the front of the grid. He has also mentioned that the possibility of a brass band playing a short piece afterwards.

7.0 RAF Flypast

- 7.1 Council is still awaiting a decision regarding its application to the RAF seeking a flypast along the A2 Coast Road and onto Coleraine ideally as close to 6pm as possible to prevent race delays.
- 7.2 The NW200 has requested that the Mayor/Deputy Mayor be present on the grid and they can be escorted out of the racing zone prior to the first evening's race to allow them to get to Coleraine for the VE Day Event.

8.0 Consultation Meeting

- 8.1 A further meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10 April 2025 with various Stakeholder representatives in attendance.
- 8.2 The Draft Programme is attached at Appendix B and will continue to be updated as and when activities have been agreed.

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 **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

VE Action Plan 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>			
Also reading from today's news and the correspondence received by Council, it is understood	The suggested location for the Beacon Lighting event is The Diamond, Coleraine in	Mayor's Office	

<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

Thursday 8 May 2025

	Draft Programme
	<p>VE / VJ Exhibition in Coleraine Town Hall (29th April – 2nd September)</p> <p>Schools' Competition to design a souvenir mug which will be presented to the winner at the event</p> <p>Window dressing competition – winner announced at the event</p>
2 pm – 4 pm	Tea Dance, New Row Presbyterian Church Hall, Coleraine
6:00pm	Military Village to be in-situ on Queen Street along with historians and war time stall
5.45 pm -6.15 pm	Flypast – to be confirmed
6:30pm	Church Bells to ring
6:35pm	<p>Programme of Entertainment to commence in the Events Space outside Coleraine Town Hall.</p> <p>MC – Brian Moore to include: Leading Ladies Victoria Lagan Dance and Drama Performance by Army Cadets band?</p> <p>Stage, Picnic Tables, Bunting etc</p>

8:30-40pm	Parade to leave Coleraine Leisure Centre
8:55pm	Parade to arrive at The Diamond - welcome by the Deputy Mayor
9:00pm	<p>Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial conducted by Rev Dr JI Thompson MBE DL</p> <p>Names of WW2 fallen soldiers – Cllr D Huggins</p> <p>Wreath Laying – Cllr P Anderson, Veterans' Champion</p> <p>Minute's Silence</p> <p>Piper and bugler</p>
9:15pm	Performance by Counterpoint choir at War Memorial to include I Vow to thee my Country
9:30pm	Lighting of Beacon by HMLL and VE Day 80 Tribute by Chair of Commemoration & Celebration SC
9:35pm	National Anthem performed by choir – event ends