

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	NATIONAL MONUMENT TO THE SPITFIRE		
DATE OF DECISION:	21 JULY 2021		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
N/A			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>The purpose of this report is to formally record Southampton City Council's strategic support for the Southampton Spitfire Memorial proposal which has been developed by the National Spitfire Project Charity (NSPC), an independent organisation. It is intended as a national monument to the Spitfire, the designer, RJ Mitchell, the workers of the Supermarine factory who built the aircraft and those who flew and operated the aircraft. The Council will work with the NSPC to provide support to help bring the project to fruition. This report also sets out financial support towards the further development of the concept which has also received the support of the HM Treasury through the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund.</p>			

RECOMMENDATIONS:	
i)	That Southampton City Council formally records its strategic support to the concept of a national monument to the Spitfire in the city and commits to work together with the National Spitfire Project Charity and funding partners to help bring this project to fruition.
ii)	Approve a further capital contribution of £350,000 in 2021/22 as a significant funding contribution towards this asset as a National Spitfire Monument. This is to be added to the General Fund capital programme, requiring subsequent approval to spend at Cabinet. The detailed terms relating to the award of this funding will be worked up by the Executive Director of Place after consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercialisation and the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations prior to approval to spend being considered.
iii)	Approve an additional revenue budget of £150,000 in 2021/22 as both a contribution towards the council's initial internal costs associated with working with the National Spitfire Project Charity, development of funding submissions to support the project and a grant towards the National Spitfire Project Charity to undertake surveys, feasibility, detailed design and other related work via a specialist project management consultancy to be appointed by the charity. That the detailed terms relating to the use and allocation of this funding is delegated to the Executive Director of Place after

consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercialisation and the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This report enables the Council to record its support for this monument and allocate funding to assist in developing the concept further. Officers will be required to work with the National Spitfire Project Charity (NSPC) and key stakeholders to provide professional expertise to the project team.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. The alternative option is not to support this initiative or to provide strategic support but no direct resource commitment. This project has now gained support from stakeholders including the HM Treasury through the allocation of funding through the Armed Forces Covenant Trust. In order to draw down the above funding and to progress the project there is a need to secure match funding. Without this initial match funding the project is unable to progress.
3. An alternative approach is to encourage the NSPC to consider delivering this project as UK City of Culture legacy project rather than be delivered in advance. However, the NSPC current programme is to delivery this monument by 2024.

DETAIL (including consultation carried out)

4. The Council has been approached by the NSPC to provide support in developing a national monument to the Spitfire in Mayflower Park in the city. The purpose of the National Spitfire Monument is described below:
“The monument will stand as a tribute to the true ‘Spirit of the Spitfire.’ This is celebrated in the engineering prowess of its designer, RJ Mitchell, to the hard work and dedication of the men and women who built the aircraft at the Woolston Supermarine factory and finally to those who flew and operated the aircraft in the RAF, Royal Navy and around the world.”
<https://nationalspitfiremonument.com/about/>
5. The Spitfire was designed by Reginald Mitchell at the Supermarine factory in Woolston, Southampton. The prototype was first flown from Eastleigh Aerodrome, now Southampton Airport on 6th March 1936. The aircraft entered service in 1938 with the RAF. The Woolston factory continued to be the only supplier of Spitfires until the summer of 1940. When the factory was bombed during the Battle of Britain with the death of over 100 workers, key sites were requisitioned throughout the city to disperse the building of the aircraft and manufacturing continued. In total 8,000 Spitfires were produced in Southampton throughout the lifetime of the aircraft.
6. The indicative design is attached in Appendix 1, these were the plans submitted as part of the planning application in 2019. The design involves a stainless-steel spitfire reproduction with a wingspan of 16m on a mast which is 40m high. The mast is designed to present the vapour trail from the plane. The plinth on which the structure sits is currently designed to protrude over the waterfront. The plinth is designed to include seating and is based on the roundels as used by the RAF. The aim is for there to be interactive elements around the plinth enabling visitors to learn about the Spitfire and its history, the air force and the city.
7. The design for the monument resulted from a national design competition in 2010. In April 2015 Cabinet considered a report which outlined the terms for a 150-year lease of an area in Mayflower Park to the NSPC to be used for the location of the monument. Full planning permission was granted in 2014 and again later in 2019.

	One of the very significant challenges for the project has been securing funding toward the estimated capital cost which in the NSPC December 2020 Project Execution Plan is estimated at £5.5m. The project took a significant step forward when in the National Budget announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in March 2020 it was stated that the Government will provide up to £3m match-fund to support the construction of a Memorial to the Spitfire on the Southampton Waterfront.
8.	The concept of a new national monument in recognition to those who designed, built and flew the Spitfire in World War II heightens the significance of Southampton's heritage nationally and internationally. Southampton's heritage is recognised and celebrated as a key component of the campaign for Southampton to be the City of Culture 2025. The aspiration of the NSPC is for the National Spitfire Monument to be completed prior to 2025, if feasible and viable. The story of the Spitfire is an important part of Southampton's story and heritage, with the potential to attract national and international visitors.
9.	The NSPC state that the project already has involved the engagement of several partners and stakeholders. The City Council will be able to provide support to extend this further and particularly explore how the project can be used to enable residents and visitors of all ages to participate in the heritage of the city. The project does not only involve the construction of a monument but there is also interpretation to enable participation. This can be explored to ensure that all opportunities are maximised especially with children and young people, through schools and across all the communities within the city.
10.	The Council can explore with the NSPC opportunities for social value through the delivery of the project and how it can be used to benefit the local economy, and tourism.
11.	This is a complex project which will form part of a major transformation of Mayflower Park and as such there is a significant amount of work involved for the NSPC who are delivering this project including: development of a robust business case, programme, cost plan, procurement approach, governance, fundraising package, community participation and engagement plan and communications strategy.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

12.	The December 2020 NSPC Project Execution Plan states that the project needs a budget of £5.5m. In 2020 an Outline Grant Agreement was signed with the Armed Forces Covenant Trust for £3m funded by HM Treasury. The NSPC has recently appointed fundraising consultants to provide advice on a fundraising strategy to seek to secure the remaining funding needed to deliver the project. The HM Treasury contribution is intended as is match funding towards the project.
13.	This report is seeking approval for a further £350,000 capital funding in 2021/22 as a grant contribution to the project. This will be added to the General Fund capital programme but with subsequent approval to spend required once detailed terms relating to the awarding of the funding is determined. There is existing provision within the capital programme of £12,000 in 2021/22, which relates to a sum previously agreed in 2015 to support this project. Hence, the total capital allocation is £362,000. The Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercialisation and the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations will

	consider the detailed terms to apply.
14.	Approval is also sought for £150,000 revenue as both a contribution towards the councils initial internal costs associated with working with the National Spitfire Project Charity, development of funding submissions to support the project and a grant towards the National Spitfire Project Charity to undertake surveys, feasibility, detailed design and other related work via a specialist project management consultancy to be appointed by the charity. This report seeks approval for the detailed terms relating to the use and allocation of this funding is delegated to the Executive Director of Place after consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercialisation and the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations.
15	The £150,000 will be found from the central contingency budget, so will not impact on service budgets. The £0.350M will be added into the capital programme, subject to approval to spend, and the costs of borrowing can be reviewed (estimated at around £20,000) but should be able to be accommodated within existing capital financing provision.

Property/Other

16.	Mayflower Park is owned by the Council and in April 2015 a report was considered by Cabinet outlining the terms of 150-year lease of an area of the park to be used for the location of the monument. There may also be a need to carry out further consultation. As the plinth on which the monument is currently designed projects into the water, this then needs to involve a number of parties including Associated British Ports, the Crown Estate and the Environment Agency.
17.	In 2015, Cabinet approved that the NSPC would have a full maintaining and insuring lease, meaning that the repairs and maintenance of the monument would remain the responsibility of the NSPC. As the Council has responsibility for the health and safety of the users of the park there will be a need for the Council to be fundamentally involved in the project.
18.	At this stage this project is intended to be delivered by a project management company appointed by the NSPC.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

19 S1 Localism Act 2011 and other Local Government legislation

Other Legal Implications:

20. Issuing of a full repairing an insuring lease for 150 years of an area of Mayflower Park.

21. There will be implications that will need to be assessed in relation to the Council's agreements with the Southampton International Boat Show.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

22. The NSPC will require a full risk register for this project. At this stage a few of the key risks are listed below:

- securing the appropriate funding
- ensuring that robust cost estimates capture all capital and revenue costs going forward including long term maintenance costs and health and safety management

- ensuring the design considers all aspects of health and safety and maintenance including the feasibility of the structure on the waterfront
- that the NSPC has sufficient resources, skills and expertise to deliver a National project of this scale
- to ensure that the programme is realistic and capable of being delivered in the target timescale of 2024
- that failure to deliver by 2024, due to the complexity of the project, does not impact on Southampton's bid to become UK City of Culture 2025
- ensuring appropriate community engagement to seek the support of residents and visitors

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

23. A ten-year Cultural Strategy (including Heritage) is currently being developed and will be consulted upon in Autumn 2021. The NSP will feature as a proposed project in the strategy.

Southampton's ambitions around Culture also feature in the Economic and Green Growth Strategy 2020-2030 including bidding to become UK City of Culture 2025.

Southampton's Destination Management Plan (2021-2031) also centres on developing a cultural destination with more to see, do and experience.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Bargate
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Planning Submission Plan 2019
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out?	No
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Privacy Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out?	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for

inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	

1	April 2015 Cabinet Report – Mayflower Park – Spitfire Memorial, Disposal of Public Open Space.	Mayflower Park - Spitfire Memorial Disposal of Public Open Space.pdf
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