

Draft Memorials Policy Consultation

Full results summary

Data, Intelligence & Insight Team – October 2023



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Introduction and Methodology



Southampton City Council undertook public consultation on the Draft Memorials Policy.

- The consultation took place between **08/08/2023 – 25/09/2023**.
- The aim of this consultation was to:
 - Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposals for Draft Memorials Policy.
 - Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have.
 - Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objective in a different way.
- This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.
- It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.



Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard, which are meaningful and comply with *The Gunning Principles (considered to be the legal standard for consultations)*:

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made)
2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration'
3. There is adequate time for consideration and response
4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made



New Conversations 2.0
LGA guide to engagement



Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- 1. proposals are still at a formative stage**
A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- 2. there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**
The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response**
There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,¹ despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 4. 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**
Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²)', which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

² BAILII, [England and Wales Court of Appeal \(Civil Decision\) Decisions](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016.

³ BAILII, [United Kingdom Supreme Court](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016

⁴ The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute



- The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback. Questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.
- Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals. Emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.
- The consultation was promoted in the following ways by:
 - Sending emails to stakeholder networks
 - Sending emails via the Communities Team network
 - Social media posts
 - Southampton City Council e-bulletins
 - Southampton City Council website
- All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. In addition anyone could provide feedback in letters and emails. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon similar sentiment or theme. We have also endeavoured to outline all the unique points and suggestions gathered as a part of the consultation and so there are tables of quotes or summaries of these for each theme of comment.

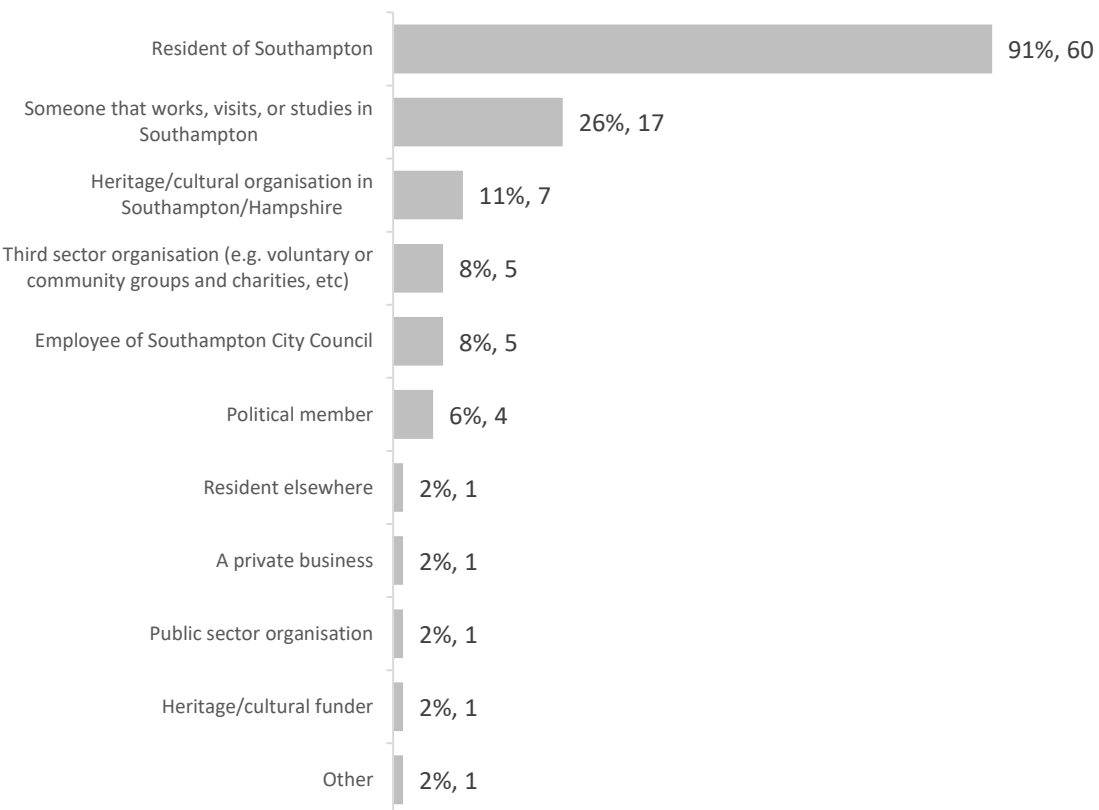


Who were the respondents?

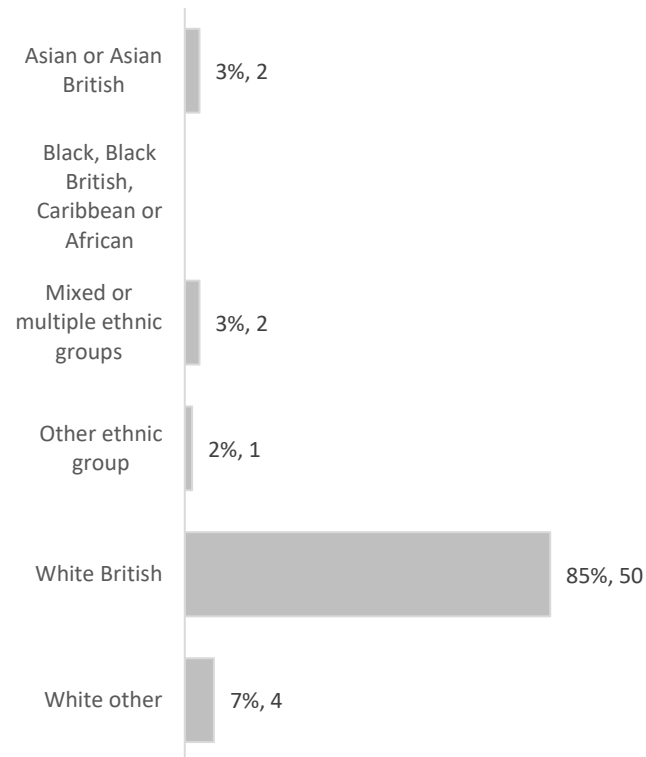
Total respondents:

	Total number of responses
Questionnaire	68
Emails / letters	6
Total	74

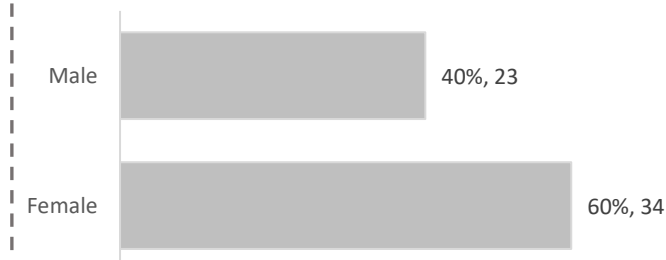
Interest in the consultation:



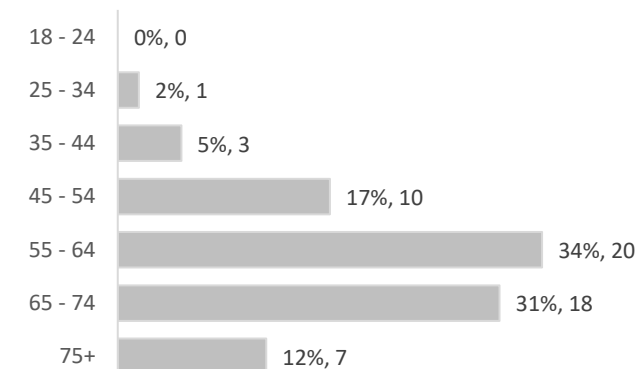
Ethnicity:



Sex:



Age:





Proposed changes



The questionnaire outlined the following background information:

Background:

This policy focuses on the creation, installation, management and maintenance of memorials on land owned by Southampton City Council.

The aim of this policy, and the procedures that accompany it, is for Southampton to have a fair, transparent and systematic approach to making informed decisions:

1. about proposals for new memorials and their long-term management and maintenance;
2. for the proposed removal or replacement of existing memorials and potential additions to provide more contextual interpretation, and;
3. that will enable communities and stakeholders to be involved and engaged in the process of co-creating Southampton's public spaces, to create a greater sense of pride, belonging, identity and shape the look, feel and experience of the city.

This policy has been developed in response to:

1. the rising number of requests to different parts of the Council for monuments, memorials, public art and other markers;
2. the Government's 2021 legislative requirement that historic monuments should be 'retained and explained', and;
3. the Council's Full Council Motion in March 2021 that committed to *"never arbitrarily extract or displace any monument, memorial or statue and to subject the decision to appropriate levels of resident consultation"*.



Criteria for memorials proposed on Council land



The questionnaire outlined the following proposals for the criteria for memorials proposed on Council land:

Section Four of the draft policy outlines the seven criteria for memorials proposed on Council land.

1) Connection to Southampton

All prospective proposals for a memorial must have a clear and well defined historical and conceptual relationship with the proposed location and the city of Southampton. Proposals where there is no, or limited, relationship between the subject and location will not be acceptable and a strong case will need to be made for exceptions.

Evidence of the exploration of alternative or more appropriate sites will need to be shown. For example, a cemetery or churchyard, the National Memorial Arboretum or the location in which the event took place, or the individual lived or worked.

This policy should also encourage a more equitable distribution of new memorials throughout Southampton to ensure that the whole city feels it is part of the story and avoids the focus and saturation of the city centre.

2) Equity, inclusion and diversity

There will be a requirement that all prospective proposals give due consideration to equity, inclusion and diversity. This includes socio-economic background, disability, ethnicity, age, sexuality, gender and religion. This may be through the memorial itself or wider interpretation and production of associated materials and supporting information.

3) Physical manifestation

All prospective proposals must describe what is being proposed and the rationale for the specific approach e.g. a statue, plaque or planting. Within this, evidence of the exploration of alternative options that have been considered and rejected e.g. a memorial garden over an event.

There will be an expectation that there is a clear justification of how the proposed scheme adds value and does not detract from the suggested location or wider public setting.

4) Ten-year principle

No memorials should be erected before ten years have elapsed from the death of the individual, group or the event to be marked. Only in exceptional circumstances will memorials be considered within the ten-year period. It is proposed that Southampton's Blue Plaque Scheme is changed from 20 years to ten years to align to this principle.

This is to ensure a considered approach to discussion and debate, good planning, design and consultation.



The questionnaire outlined the following proposals for the criteria for memorials proposed on Council land:

5) Quality and experience

Southampton has high quality monuments, memorials and public art across the city – many produced by national and international figures. In keeping with this tradition, and the ambitions for the quality of public spaces for our communities, it is critical that proposed new works enhance this legacy. This will include the consideration of materials, setting and maintenance.

There is an expectation that a robust and transparent selection process will be undertaken to commission high calibre artists, architects and designers. Open, limited, or direct invitation may be appropriate if the method of commissioning is supported by a full justification.

The employment of suitably qualified and experienced architects and landscape architects is expected to ensure the best possible setting for a new memorial, if required.

6) Formal consents

All prospective proposals will need to consider whether planning permission is required. No proposal will be supported without formal agreement of the landowner.

Proposals impacting on listed buildings or structures will require Listed Building Consent and those impacting on scheduled monuments will require Scheduled Monument Consent. The impact on buried archaeological remains and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) must also be considered.

Some proposals may require consent under the Highways Act 1980, whilst others in Registered parks, gardens and on common land must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscapes' special character and may be subject to approval by the Secretary of State.

7) Management, maintenance and legacy

For all prospective proposals, the Council will need to be assured the applicant can fund the entire project costs and provision is made for the structure, along with associated landscaping, to be maintained in perpetuity and to the specification of the Council.

The Council will need evidence that in the event of financial or governance failure of the delivery organisation, that the required funds are in place to complete the project. The Council will not be liable for taking the project to completion.

The Council will need to be satisfied with arrangements for future maintenance – this may be through the establishment of an endowment fund, or a commuted sum gifted to the Council. There should not be an expectation that the Council will automatically take on these liabilities or to pass these to the Council's strategic partners.

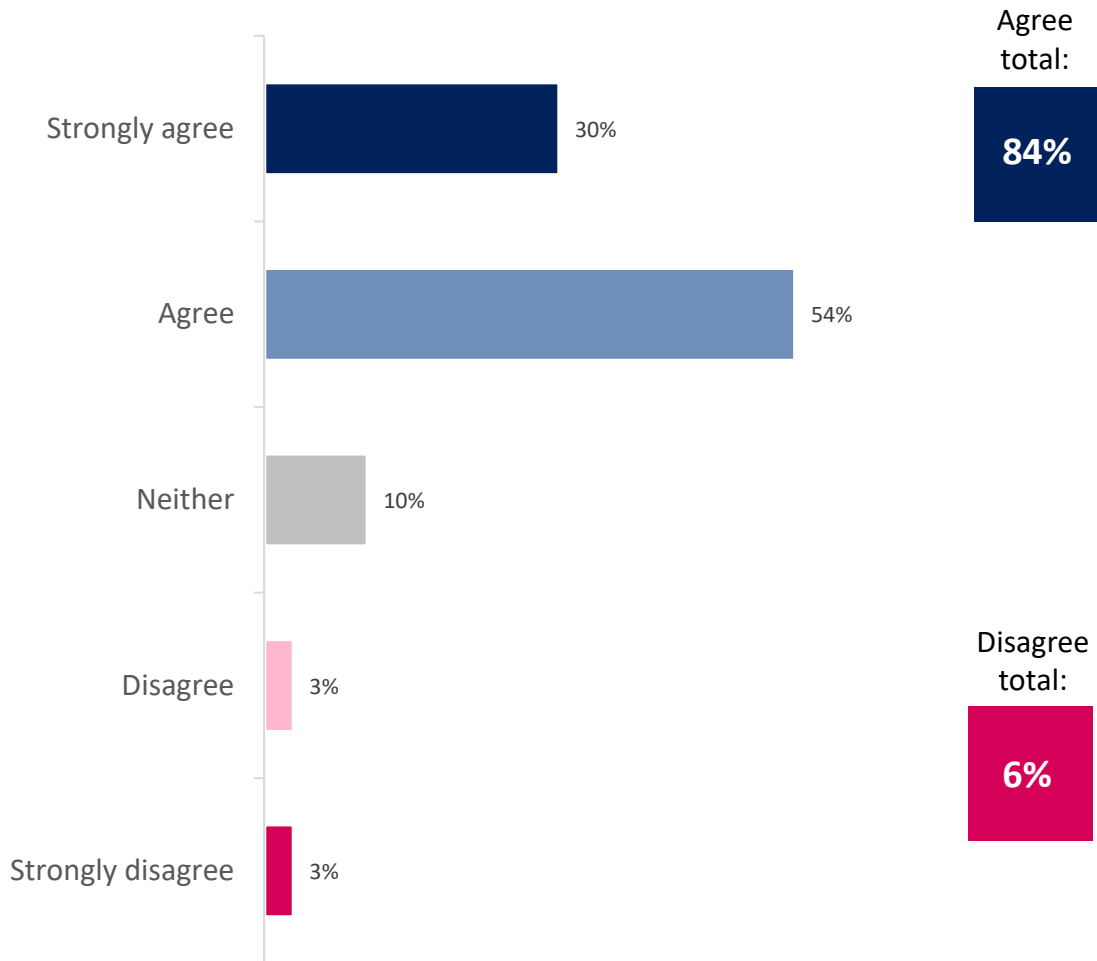
In the circumstances where it is agreed that the memorial is to be gifted to the Council, a one-off commuted sum payment will be required to cover all future maintenance costs and a formal agreement entered into prior to granting permission to proceed with the proposed project.



Criteria for memorials proposed on Council land

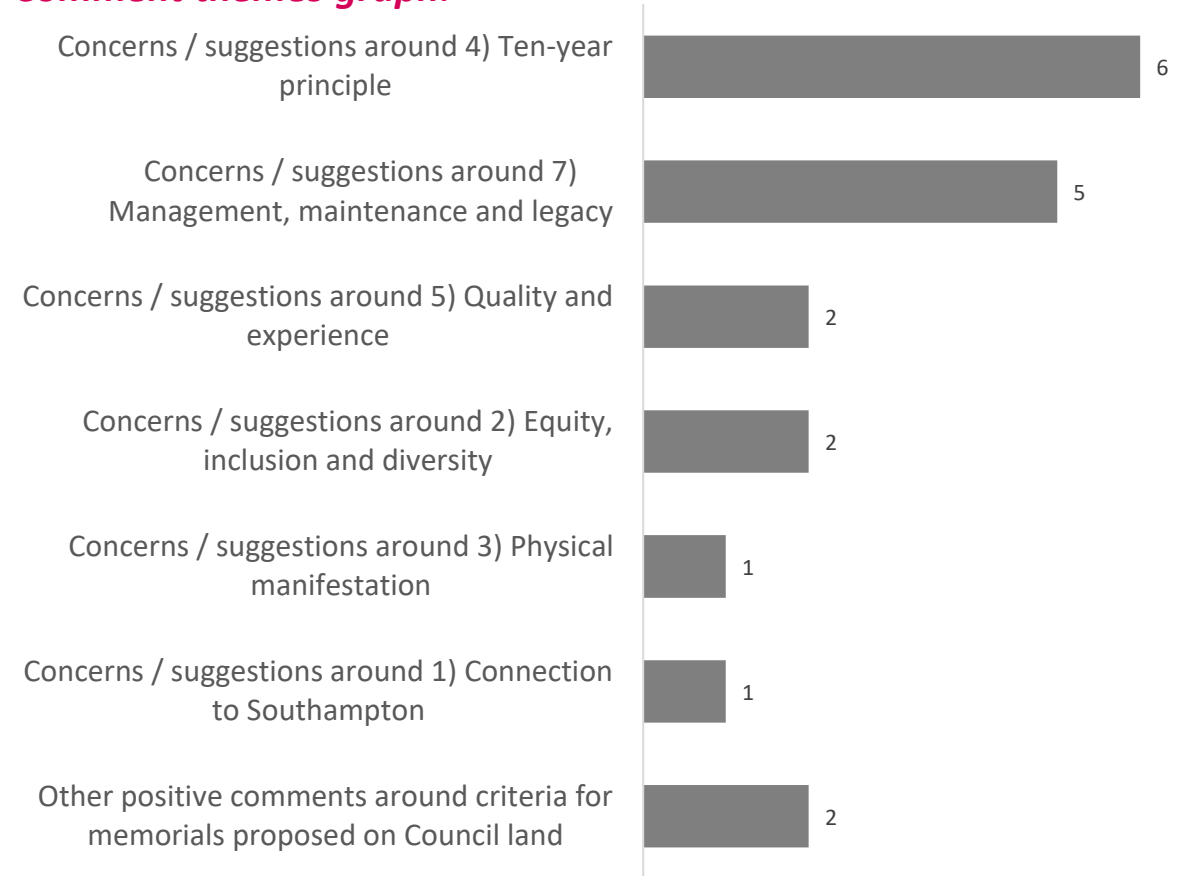
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft criteria for memorials proposed on Council land?

Overall:



Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on any impacts suggestions or alternatives on this priority. Any emailed or letter responses have also been considered alongside questionnaire responses.

Comment themes graph:



This graph is presented in respondent count rather than percentage.

Base respondents: 67



The following tables outline all the unique points and suggestions given for this priority.

Concerns / suggestions around 7) Management, maintenance and legacy

Important that long term considerations are taken into account, eg funding of maintenance. Also important that there are specialists available to advise on care and maintenance.

I would like to see proposals for maintenance of existing memorials and engagement with community groups to facilitate this.

I don't think the Council should be able to allow a monument to fall into a state of disrepair after 10 years if it has received an agreed sum to cover all future maintenance. [...] I'm not clear on why the proposed policy allows the Council to decide to allow a monument to fall into decline after 10 years when arrangements have been made to fund future maintenance as part of the proposal for the new monument.

I have concerns over the "future maintenance in perpetuity" element. I don't see how this is possible and I do feel that the city has a responsibility to maintain our heritage for future generations. i.e., not to rely on the original builder/proposer to promote maintenance for ever. Also how would, for example, vandalism be covered? If an existing memorial is damaged due to, for example, a change in attitudes, should this be down to the original proposal to maintain the recovery? Clearly not in my opinion.

However, I do wish to say that some of our former stone drinking fountains and horse troughs are, with one exception on the Avenue, neglected and decaying. These irreplaceable historical street objects need to be preserved and should be cherished.

Concerns / suggestions around 5) Quality and experience

Working closely with Public Art initiatives is important so that memorials and public art works complement each other.

Quality is a very subjective thing. Today's picked shark is tomorrow's object of ridicule. A Fine Art test should be applied.

Concerns / suggestions around 1) Connection to Southampton

Its a bit limiting to insist that there must be some local connection to a statue or memorial. What if you live in a place where literally nothing exciting has ever happened?

Other positive comments around criteria for memorials proposed on Council land

Overall it seems a sensible, well balanced plan.

I welcome the commitment to more diversity in line with the current demographic of the city's population

Concerns / suggestions around 2) Equity, inclusion and diversity

Far too 'politically' correct. If someone/matter/item deserves a memorial then just get on with it. It should not matter what so ever about equality/gender/sexuality/race/colour.

4.2 Equity, Inclusion and Diversity:

Firstly, from the '... requirement that all prospective proposals give due consideration to equity, inclusion and diversity.' related subsequent list above ('socio-economic background, disability, ethnicity, age, sexuality, gender and religion') it is clear that a) SCC has been rightly and commendably original in instituting the first category ('socio-economic background'), and that b), the remainder of the list, that the categories are largely derived from the Equality Act 2010 'Nine Protected Characteristics' list – these protected characteristics are: • Age • Disability • Gender reassignment • Marriage and civil partnership • Pregnancy and maternity • Race • Religion or belief • Sex • Sexual orientation [...] Regarding the inclusion of 'socio-economic background' – which again we feel very good to be covered, we suggest given that Southampton has been from very early times a globally important, maritime, therefore outward looking city, and more directly because of its extensive multiethnic demographic composition, including a 'socio-cultural background' category would be of great value and complement the 'socio-economic background' one included. More directly, and most importantly, there should be explicit reference to 'Belief' in the list and this with Religion, hence 'Religion or Belief.' This is important to ensure that humanists and others are not excluded, as those not following any formal religious faith are substantial section of the UK's population, and the UK is a secular state. If you can help with giving a reason for the omission of the Gender Reassignment protected characteristic (unless covered under 'gender': in which case it will be important to refer to it there) it will be appreciated.



The following tables outline all the unique points and suggestions given for this priority.

Concerns / suggestions around 4) Ten-year principle

How does the 10 year rule affect murals which can be both public art and memorials? I assume that memorial plaques on public benches are not included in the 10 year rule. [...] There is a crossover between art and memorial in murals for example that celebrates a community heritage but includes memorial's to recently deceased. Also in the recent past the City Council ran an adopt a bench programme where people were encouraged to fund a new bench on the common that had a relevant plaque, both would not have met the 10 year rule.

Ten years after an event is too short. Time is needed for reflection. Go back to twenty years.

No reason for a ten year wait.

Firstly an absolute "10 year" rule is probably not sustainable. The Titanic Engineers Memorial was erected within 2 years. If a similar convulsive event were to occur in the future the public clamour would make impossible to wait that long. The policy should allow for such a circumstance. However, if a monument is erected within the 10 year timescale it will be important that any inscriptions are relatively neutral in tone. History tells us that early judgements are not necessarily the correct ones.

I would like to see the 10 year principle removed. Memorials are important for social cohesion and events/people that warrant a memorial should be timely. Though, I agree they should not be rushed to ensure good design etc.

4.4 Ten Year Principle:

The exceptional circumstances allowance of within the Ten Years Principle is we feel a very valuable and helpful one, for of course there could be in principle examples of Southampton based/substantially connected with individuals who have contributed in various fields of national public life in that shorter time frame. At my own personal level and perspective, I would also like to ask you/SCC who were (posts/positions of those directly involved) those who formed the core SCC led group of internal [and assumed] external stakeholders and expert voices that SCC engaged to enable creation and subsequent development of this very important policy. Could you share detail about the eligibility criteria for membership of that SCC (officials and Councillors?) initiated and led group of internal [and assumed] external stakeholders and expert voices individuals that came to draft and finalise the policy document you have kindly provided to us/OCHD for our review and input. These questions if answered will greatly strengthen clarity on the policy development background providing valuable transparency of process confirmation.

Concerns / suggestions around 3) Physical manifestation

4.3 Physical Manifestation:

- 1. the words '... must describe what is being proposed and the rationale for the specific approach 'this crucial requirement relates to the educational use in Southampton across the city, its residents, various communities, businesses and especially SCC itself and educational institutions (schools, colleges, universities, Adult Learning, etc.) will be made of this crucially important descriptive information.*
- 2. description of the 'journey'/process that such projects proposers will have from an SCC engagement point of view will be of crucial practical value to potential new public statues/plaques/planting projects proposers.*



Proposed application process



The questionnaire outlined the following proposed application process:

Section Five of the draft policy outlines the application process for memorials proposed on Council land.

1) Enquiries

Proposals for memorials on Southampton City Council land must be discussed with the Council at an early stage before designs are finalised. This will enable a discussion around the published criteria in section 4, such as the historical connection with the proposed location, design quality, materials, future maintenance and ownership.

This provides the opportunity to address any showstoppers and/or discuss any alternative approaches and considerations.

Contact memorials@southampton.gov.uk.

For enquiries about commemorative benches and plaques in the city's parks and open spaces, please visit southampton.gov.uk, or contact:

Seats & Plaques at Parks & Street Cleansing Services,
Southampton City Council, Red Lodge Depot,
Vermont Close, Southampton,
SO16 7LT.

There is a separate list of conditions for commemorative benches and plaques, which are different to the criteria for memorials set out in Section Four of this policy.

2) Public Spaces Panel

The Public Spaces Panel will review proposals against the criteria in section 4.0 before recommending that proposals are circulated for wider public consultation and engagement.

The Panel will then review the public feedback and make recommendations for any changes, and then sign off the final design before it is submitted for a final decision by Cabinet and then planning permission and consents if required.

3) Permissions and consents

Applicants will need to apply for the necessary permissions and consents outlined in section 4.6. No project will be able to progress without these in place.



The questionnaire outlined the following proposed application process:

4) Commissioning and funding

Southampton City Council expects high quality examples of new work in public spaces to enhance the legacy of the existing monuments, memorials and public art. Following the criteria identified above, the Council will need to approve all contractors prior to the commencement of any work or award of any contract. The Council has a minimum level of Health & Safety, insurance and operational standards for all external contractors to ensure the safety of the public and the sustainability of works.

Applicants will need to provide evidence that they can fund the entirety of the project and outline their proposals for future and ongoing maintenance.

The Council reserves the right to seek a contribution to any necessary public consultation from prospective applicants.

Agreements will need to be in place for future responsibilities, rights, insurance, repairs and maintenance before any works can take place. The Council's insurance does not cover memorials. Where the memorial is gifted to the Council commuted sums for ongoing repair and maintenance must include sums for accidental damage or vandalism.

5) Decommissioning or removal

The Government's 2021 legislation predicates against the removal of historic statues, plaques and other monuments, whilst the Council's Full Council motion commits to public consultation if the situation arises. The opportunity to provide additional contextual information to help support wider public understanding, especially in areas of contested heritage, will also be examined.

The Council reserves the right to remove a memorial after 10 years or at a point at which the asset requires replacement to maintain its amenity value. Furthermore, where a memorial is more than 10 years old, the Council reserves the right for it to fall into natural disrepair and managed decline.

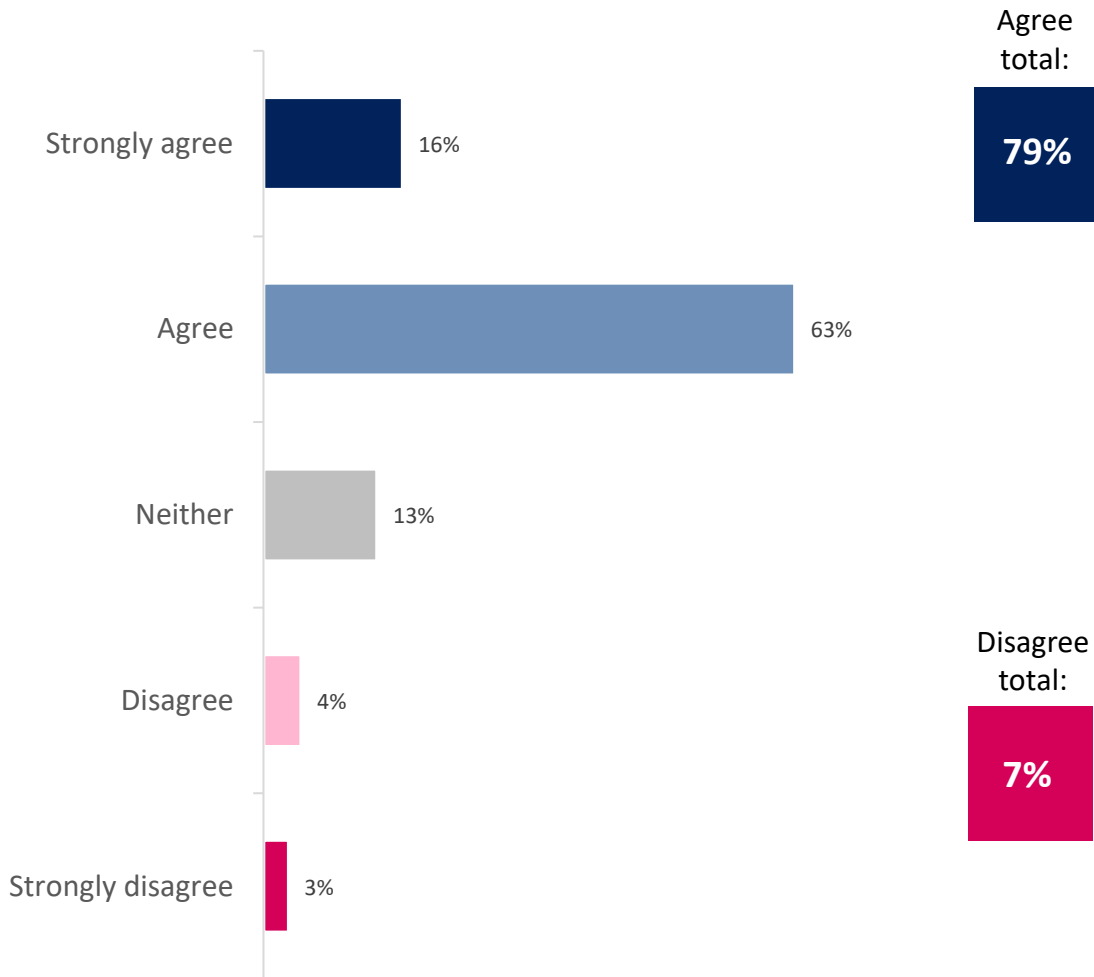
The Council reserves the right to remove or relocate memorials should this be required by any future development scheme.



Proposed application process

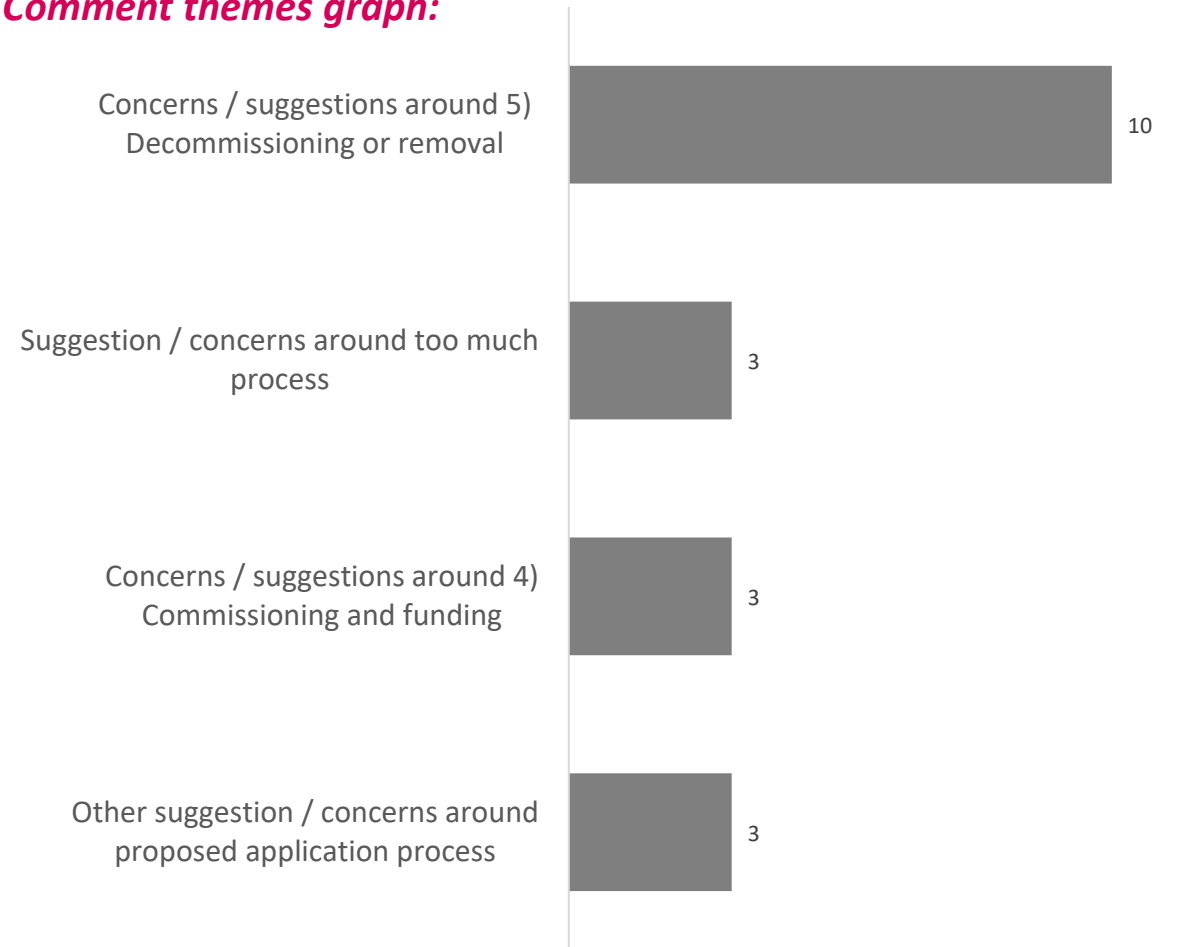
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft application process for proposals on Council land?

Overall:



Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on any impacts suggestions or alternatives on this priority. Any emailed or letter responses have also been considered alongside questionnaire responses.

Comment themes graph:



This graph is presented in respondent count rather than percentage.

Base respondents: 67



Proposed application process – free text responses.

The following tables outline all the unique points and suggestions given for this priority.

Concerns / suggestions around 5) Decommissioning or removal

<i>Memorials should be of historic importance so should not be taken down after 10 years.</i>
<i>Thus may have been covered but memorials and statues and memorials should not be removed due to pressure groups or violent activity. It would be much more appropriate and educational if full context were included as part of it.</i>
<i>However do not agree with historic memorials being removed merely because modern thinking disagrees with what the person did in an era when thinking was different to today. For example: - just because a public figure was involved in the slave trade does not negate the fact that he may also have been a philanthropist who helped the poor.</i>
<i>Reserving the right to remove a memorial to retain amenity, etc, is too vague and might even sound like weasel words.</i>
<i>I do not agree with any existing historical memorials/statues etc being removed to fit in with the "modern" age. These MUST remain in place but have full explanations put alongside them as to why they are important to this city and it's residents. [...] As before, as an older person, I do not agree with any statues/memorials or other historical matter being removed. The younger generation need to understand and accept the history of this country as there is nothing we can do to change it - without that, none of us would be here!!</i>
<i>I strongly disagree with changing an historical monument [...] Unless you visit these areas you are proposing to destroy, you wouldn't know that Southampton is all the above. Taking down an historic Monument will takeaway the inclusive, belonging and feeling of pride, it has had for many years. Get a piano and pianist. Lovely. The only thing that's shameful is Southampton City Council does not care about the city only stakeholders and partners</i>
<i>Proposals to remove any memorials must be consulted on and well communicated to the public. Otherwise some elements, as can already be seen on social media, will use this as an excuse to denigrate Southampton City Council unfairly</i>
<i>The period (10 years) after which memorials may be removed or allowed to fall into disrepair seems rather short - if something is likely to become 'irrelevant' after only 10 years, why go to the trouble of creating a memorial in the first place?</i>
<i>We are concerned that although the first paragraph here states that the gov't's 2021 "legislation predicates against removal of historic statues, plaques etc", later paragraphs assert that the "Council reserves the right to remove a memorial after ten years or where a memorial is more than ten years old to allow it to fall into natural disrepair and managed decline". This seems to be somewhat contradictory. The statements require further explanation of the circumstances where this policy might be applied.</i>
<i>Removal of memorials, for example, due to a change in attitudes, should not be permitted at all in my opinion. A memorial is to remember an event or a piece of history. If political opinions change and it is seen fit to "rewrite history" and remove a memorial, to fit with the opinions of some of the day then this is not appropriate. History is history regardless of whether you agree with it or not. The memorial should continue to represent both sides of an event or a person and can equally be a rallying point for both sides. Rewriting history to pretend something did or did not happen does not recognise our heritage one way or the other. [...] I remain concerned about the potential for current attitudes to impact existing memorials. We need to be very careful not to introduce a sensorship style of society.</i>

Suggestion / concerns around too much process

<i>Red tape should be kept to a minimum.</i>
<i>Too much process - in principle decisions could be achieved without need for expensive and long processes. Time limits should be included to indicate periods for consideration and consultation. Consideration should not be delayed.</i>
<i>I wonder what steps can be taken to ensure the process is dealt with in a timely mannner and avoids lengthy bureaucratic delays.</i>

Concerns / suggestions around 4) Commissioning and funding

<i>Regard should be given to the availability of funds to comply with application process. People who donate to commissioning of a memorial should not be expected to meet what could be expensive costs for a bureaucratic process. [...] Time and cost to applicants</i>
<i>Also, please ensure the funding is secure and unlikely to be withdrawn due to financial or economic difficulties.</i>
<i>It is not clear how the commuted sum will be calculated, nor whether the money for maintenance will be ring fenced.</i>

Other suggestion / concerns around proposed application process

<i>Nothing wrong with encouraging individuals to donate memorials to their loved ones (e.g. park benches etc).</i>
<i>leave it as it is ulterior motives here by india council</i>
<i>As stated above, how the Council will resolve any conflict over removals is not clear. We note that the wider community of Southampton is mentioned in the Draft there is very little detail except a mention in paragraph 6 of the section on Governance.</i>



Proposed approach to governance of the draft Memorials Policy



The questionnaire outlined the following proposed approach to governance of the Draft Memorials Policy:

Section Six proposes the approach to governance for the draft Memorials Policy on Council land.

It is proposed that this policy will be governed by the formation of a new Public Spaces Panel that will meet twice annually.

The panel will comprise councillors, relevant officers and specialists, community representatives and young people. It will involve a recruitment and selection process to form the Panel which will retain equity, diversity and inclusion at the heart of decision-making.

The process will involve consultation with relevant departments on a case-by-case basis and their expertise shared with the panel, such as Culture, Heritage, Planning and Highways, Parks, Stronger Communities.

The Panel's objective is to receive and review proposals for memorials against agreed criteria before circulating for wider public engagement and consultation. Feedback from public engagement and consultation will then inform the Panel's final recommendations to Cabinet for decision-making.

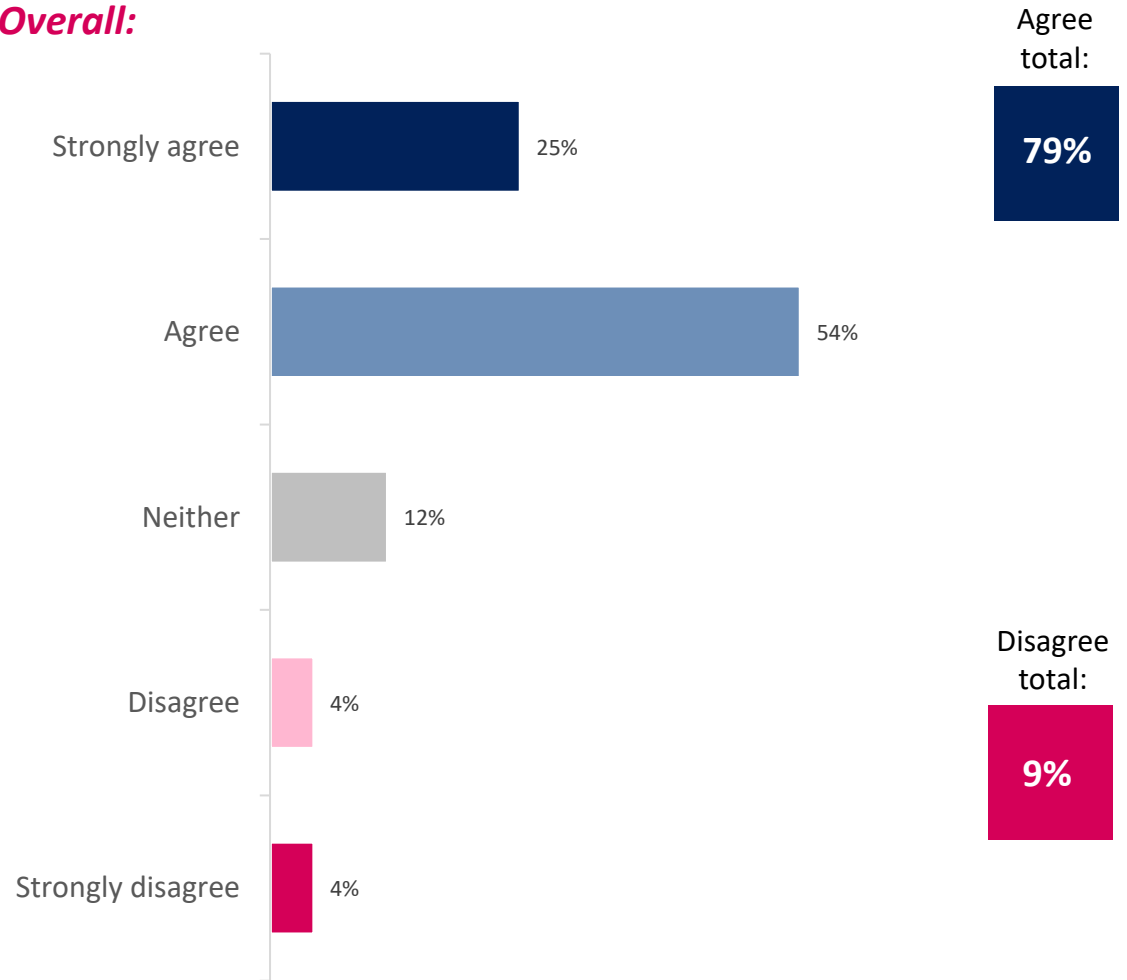
In due course, it is anticipated that Public Art proposals may also be considered via this route, to ensure a joined up and consistent approach so that the people of Southampton have a say in shaping the look, feel and experience of their city.



Proposed approach to governance of the draft Memorials Policy

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach for governance for memorial proposals on Council land?

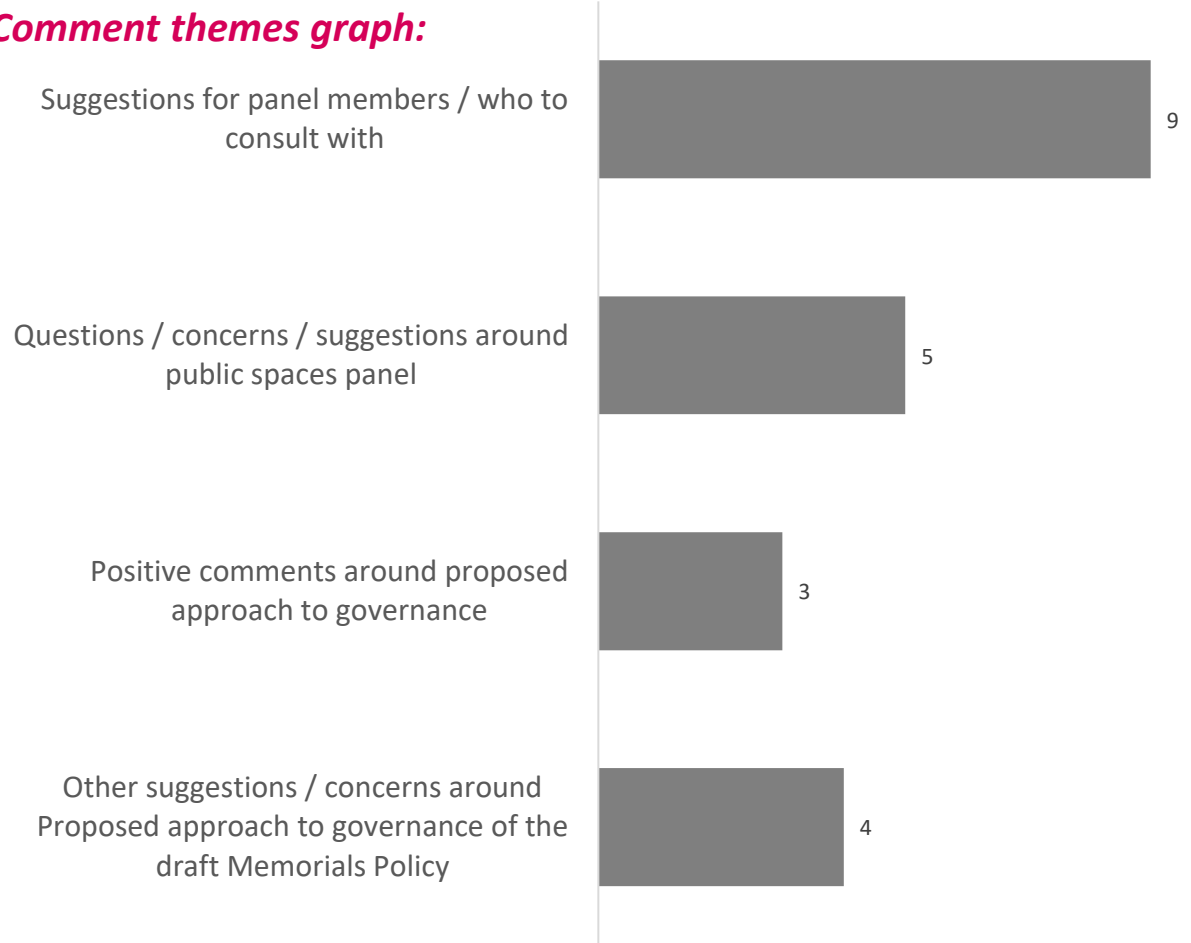
Overall:



Base respondents: 67

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on any impacts suggestions or alternatives on this priority. Any emailed or letter responses have also been considered alongside questionnaire responses.

Comment themes graph:



This graph is presented in respondent count rather than percentage.



Proposed approach to governance – free text responses.

The following tables outline all the unique points and suggestions given for this priority.

Suggestions for panel members / who to consult with

Also important that there are knowledgeable specialists on the panel eg from conservation and heritage.

I think local community groups affected by a new 'memorial' should be consulted and have the opportunity to input additional local knowledge for consideration.

People of different ages - not just 'young people' should be eligible for this governance.

particularly to include the views of young people.

As long as the public, especially the younger contingent, are listened to then no concerns.

The panel must contain an age range of residents and not just be targeted at the younger generation.

No historians on your list, but children that have been manipulated to your choice

We absolutely agree that there should be "lay representatives" on the Public Spaces Panel. We agree that they should reflect a balance of Southampton's communities. However, it is imperative that they should include some of the many organisations who have an in depth knowledge of the city's heritage and history.

Why will the panel include just "young people" from the community". To be fair it needs to include both young and old in an equal number to maintain fairness and ensure the opinions of the whole community are considered. Stopping the older element of our society from having their fair say just promotes the comment I made in an earlier dialogue box around not allowing the political view of the day to cloud our history.

Questions / concerns / suggestions around public spaces panel

How will the panel be recruited?

It was not clear who would make up the committee. If the committee is made up of halfwits and wokerati, then we might as well have no policy at all. It might be better to have a regular referendum so that residents can decide for themselves. If it were held concurrently with council elections etc, the cost would be negligible.

All reasons on 'selection' are quite ridiculous. Just get on with it!

The Policy places the responsibility for approval on the Public Spaces Panel. The Policy should make clear that the Panel should also decide on any future decommissioning of a memorial or a proposal to let it fall into disrepair. Additionally, the policy fails to make departmental accountabilities clear in bringing forward and actioning the decisions of the panel. There should be a designated lead department or officer.

if it only meets twice a year it could mean delays to getting things done. I have no idea how many applications per year there might be but some flexibility to keep the process smooth and timely would be helpful [...] still not clear about role/reach of Southampton Forward with regard to heritage and culture.

Positive comments around proposed approach to governance

It is an excellent idea to have a panel to consider memorials in Southampton, [...] I'm pleased that there will be a panel of people to discuss and make suggestions about memorials in Southampton.

Strongly welcome more citizen engagement in "co-creating public spaces" – have long advocated this approach in much of the council's work. A diverse Public Spaces Panel is a good idea – particularly community and young people's representation [...] Welcome joined up approach for public art and memorials/monuments and to see some joined up thinking with other groups –

Makes sense now there is no Public Arts officer and is important to bring in all relevant parts of the Council in any decision - maybe also link to the Design panel [...] I welcome some governance around this and in particular consideration of future maintenance so can ensure memorials we have add to the experience of both residents and visitors. Effective approaches can help highlight the city's rich history.

Other suggestions / concerns around Proposed approach to governance of the draft Memorials Policy

As usual, in danger of being far too bureaucratic. All this waffle alone is off-putting (notwithstanding that the matter must be properly controlled etc).

I don't understand why we need a consistent look for the whole of the city. Different areas have different history's and cultures so surely our public art should reflect the diversity of the city rather than being some corporate image imposed by the Council

If this is an additional panel this will cost money that SCC and the residents do not have. Now is not the time.

My own position is that it is always better to explain, nuance, 'historicize' existing memorials if possible -- this ensures community buy-in, education, removal of false or simplified versions of the past. There may come times when violence against memorials does take place; that action will often result from a prior failure by authorities and communities to reflect on the past adequately and use their imaginations to see how the statue looks from another person's point of view. It is that kind of imagination which must always lie behind any proposal to erect or maintain statues. I have spent a great deal of my professional career at Southampton University teaching about public spectacles, their meaning and their effects.



Overall draft policy



Overall Draft Policy

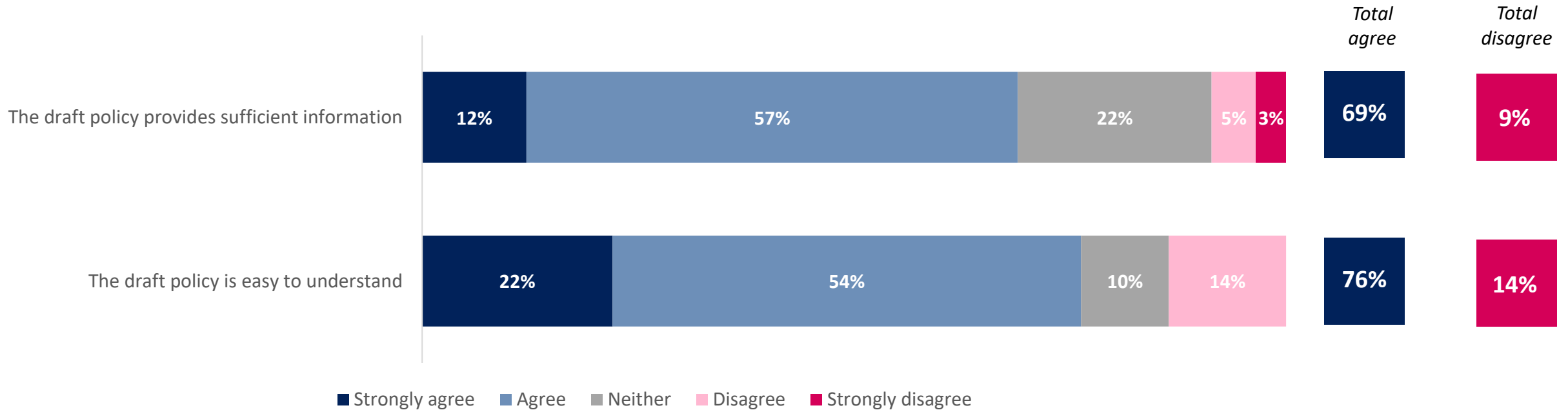
Have you read the proposed draft policy?

45% Yes, all of it

43% Yes, some of it

12% No

If you have read the proposed policy, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?





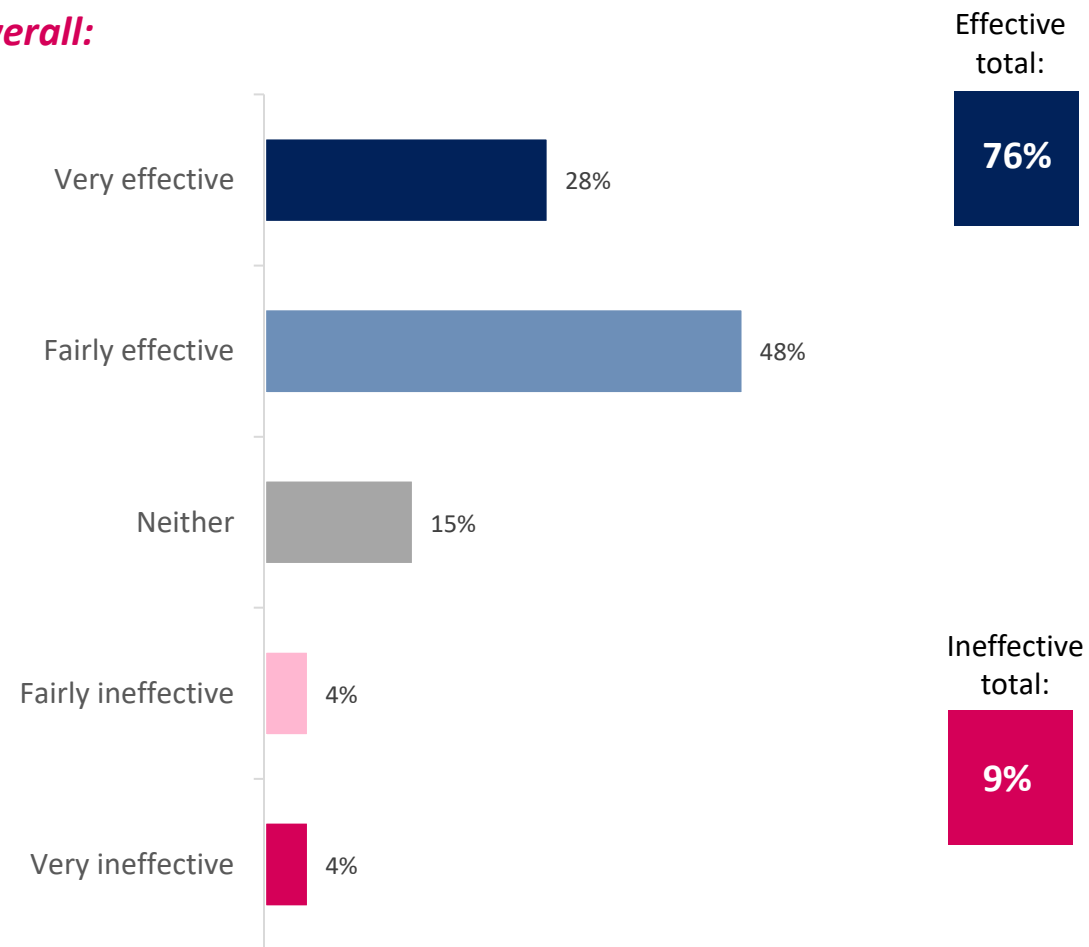
Aims of the policy

As a reminder, the aims of this policy, and the procedures that accompany it, are for Southampton to have a fair, transparent and systematic approach to making informed decisions:

1. about proposals for new memorials and their long-term management and maintenance;
2. for the proposed removal or replacement of existing memorials and potential additions to provide more contextual interpretation, and;
3. that will enable communities and stakeholders to be involved and engaged in the process of co-creating Southampton's public spaces, to create a greater sense of pride, belonging, identity and shape the look, feel and experience of the city.

Question: Now that you've read and provided feedback on the different sections of the policy, how effective do you feel the draft policy would be in achieving these aims?

Overall:



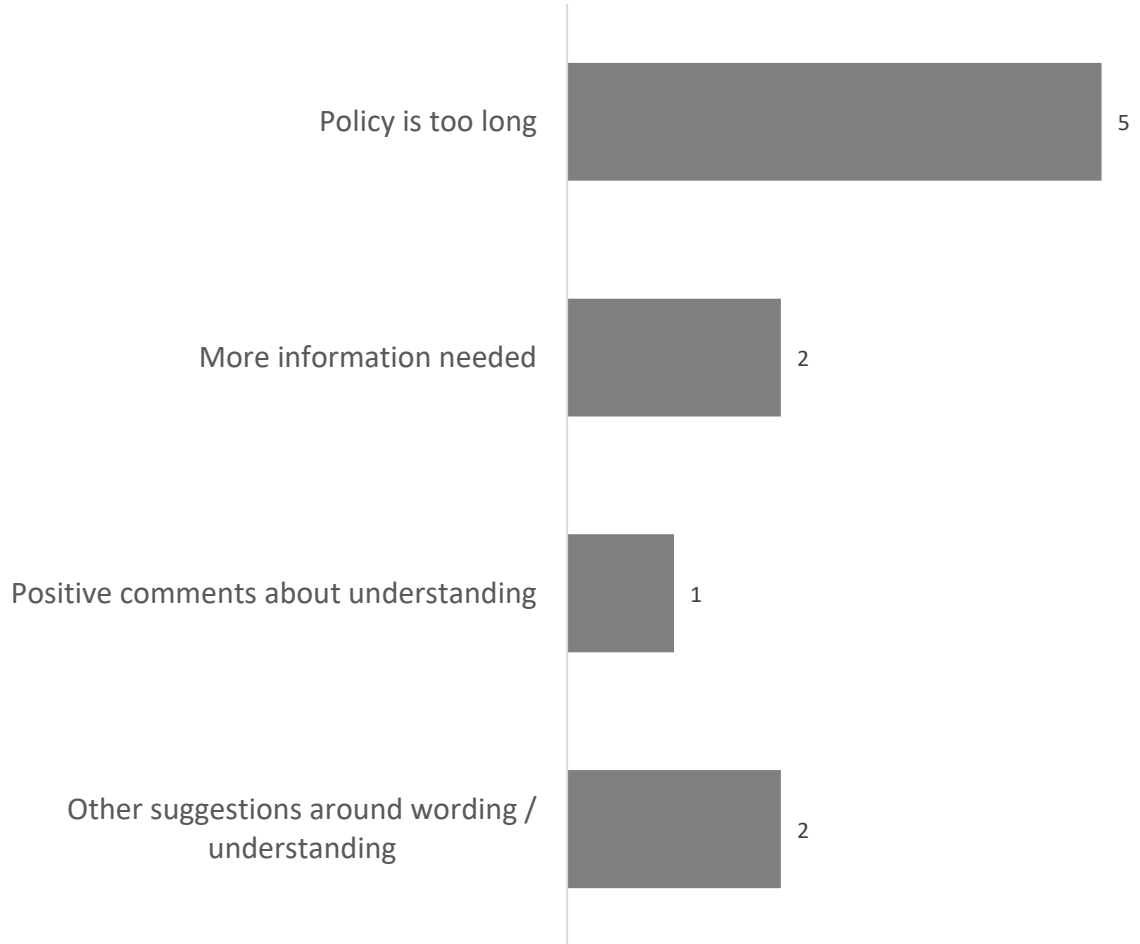
Base respondents: 67



Proposed approach to governance of the draft Memorials Policy

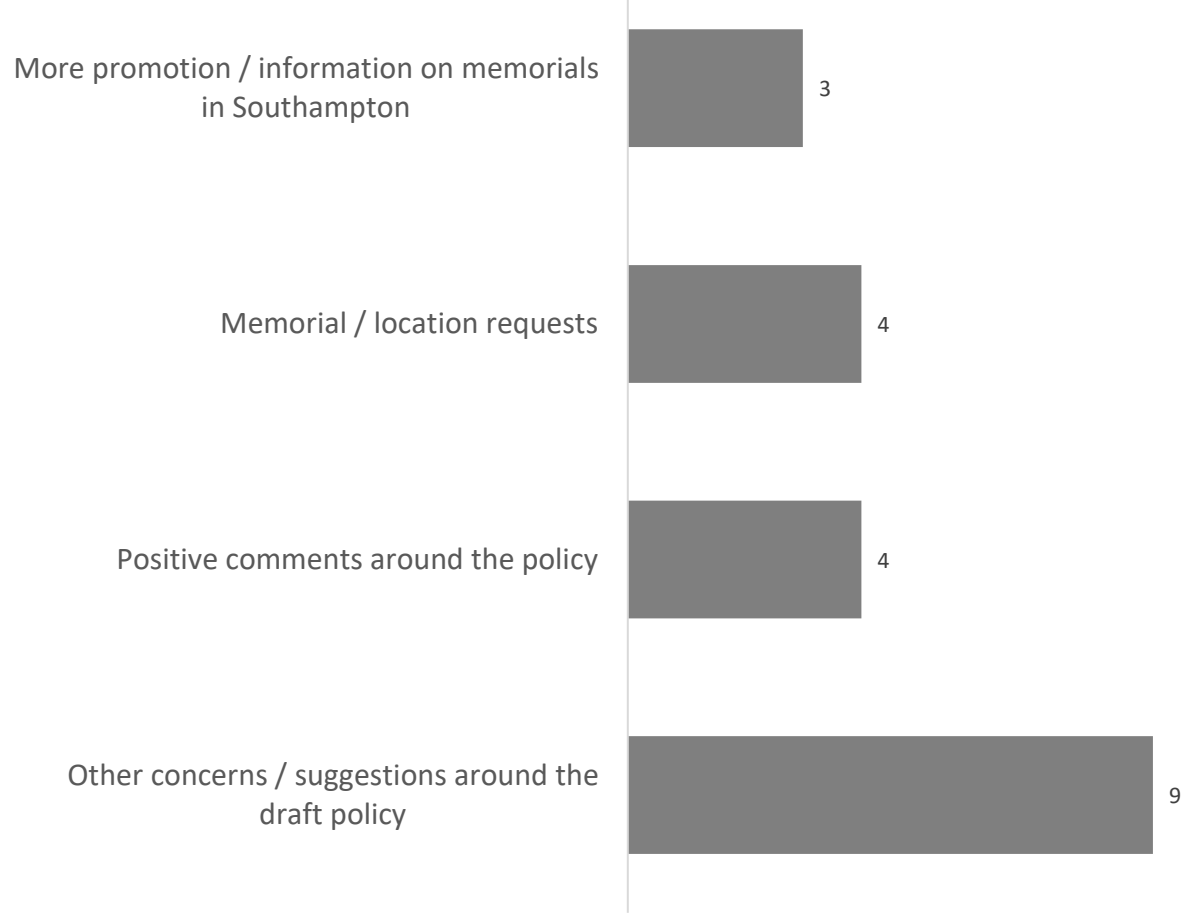
Question: If there were parts of the draft policy that you did not understand or you feel need more information, please provide further details:

Comment themes graph:



Overall draft policy comments:

Comment themes graph:



These graphs are presented in respondent count rather than percentage.



The following tables outline all the unique points and suggestions given for this priority.

Policy is too long

Far too lengthy.

It was rather long

The draft policy id far too long-winded. It needs to be made much clearer, I am reasonably intelligent and educated but I became bored halfway through!

Too corporate and long

The policy can and should be far more simplistic! Currently a lot of 'whaffle' probably by persons being paid too much and the council once again wasting money.

More information needed

Might be useful to have some Appendices for the following: Designing in context and benefit for works being carried out in association with architects and landscape architects could be valuable; Some detail on costs for maintenance, ie how commuted sum is calculated length of time included in the Commuted sum and if costs estimates can be obtained from the Council to assist in decision making.

Before proceeding further, we just want to check back on if the practice SCC applied in our own in process project's case, of SCC itself helping identify the site for our OCHD with Council of Southampton Gurdwara's support, project, on if such helpful guidance from SCC officers and technical team members, will be available to new proposed projects [after the policy is approved and enacted]? If so, at what stage in the application process?

Positive comments about understanding

In our view the Policy is pretty clear about "proposals and long term maintenance".

Other suggestions around wording / understanding

- On page 5 it is mentioned that other bodies have erected monuments including Friends of Town Quay Park. In fact the two memorials in TQP were erected by Far East Prisoners of Way (FEPOW) and the Basque children's group so this would need adjusting in the final version to be completely accurate. TQP was the happy recipient of these lovely memorials.*
- On page 18 there is reference to para 5.95 of the City Centre Action Plan and the need to protect the heritage assets. In its response to the City Vision last December Old Town Community Forum said 9.62 We welcome this specific reference to Town Quay Park; however, it would be better to have a stronger statement i.e. It is not a development site and cannot be built on. It may be some alternative wording is needed in the memorials policy to protect both our interests – ours to ensure the park remains a green space and is not built on and yours that the heritage assets are protected (but not built alongside?) Happy to discuss this latter point if that would be helpful.*

Before these though we feel that it could be most important to make an adjustment to the subject described, and that for clarity to include the words 'and other forms of commemoration' between the words 'Memorial' and 'Proposals' in the section title – thus to read 'Memorial and other Forms of Commemoration Proposals.' 4.4 below re the Blue Plaque Scheme makes this inclusion in the section wording rightly and necessarily essential. [...] 1. 'All prospective proposals for a memorial must have a clear and well defined historical and conceptual relationship with the proposed location and the city of Southampton' – RESPONSE: it will be important to include example definitions of 'well defined,' 'historical,' and 'conceptual,' at this point in the policy.

2. 'Proposals where there is no, or limited, relationship between the subject and location will not be acceptable and a strong case will need to be made for exceptions' – RESPONSE: examples of a strong case made for exceptions is essential to provide to give potential 'strong case' project proposals clarity on what type of 'arguing for on the basis of examples' information and grounds they need to provide. 'Evidence of the exploration of alternative or more appropriate sites will need to be shown' – in our own in process for 2-3 years prior to creation of the policy case, SCC itself advised the location for our project's statue. This means that on the basis of the requirement/direction given in these words that SCC had considered its advised choice of location for our project's statue must have been made under and met the strong connection of the subject to location criteria: we understood that in our case other considerations led to SCC advising the location for the monument

Other: Re 'This policy should also encourage a more equitable distribution of new memorials throughout Southampton to ensure that the whole city feels it is part of the story and avoids the focus and saturation of the city centre.' – RESPONSE: again, the point made above regarding 'and other Forms of Commemoration Proposals' is particularly important. In this the core educational/information for local residents and visitors factor is particularly important.



Overall potential impacts – free text responses.

The following tables outline all the unique points and suggestions given for this priority.

Other concerns / suggestions around draft policy

Are those of us who live in new developments not allowed public art? [...] Art cannot be created through centralised planning, art is spontaneous and random. Public art is often the result of a crazed obsession by one or two individuals to get something memorialised and that is part of its attraction. A centralised, corporate vision of public art just leads to endless bland meaningless pieces that connect with no one. And please no more Spitfires!

just an excuse to get rid of our white british history to satisfy LQbabc tats [...] will kill white history

Nothing should be done that costs council tax payers money. The Council has no money and residents cannot afford a tax hike. [...] Too expensive. SCC and residents do not have the money. Not the right time to be doing this just concentrate on providing the services that we all need eg street lights all night for safety and grass cutting. [...] Waste of time and money.

I worry that this will lead to the removal of historic memorials and statues. I'd rather you added context and background.

The average resident probably could not care less about any of the monuments except as something to deface.

You have covered yourselves to decide no matter what the public say. Spending money on monuments taken from single women with children and the disabled. A DISGRACE

continually requesting cooments I suspect the powers that be are try to put off any comments/critisim

The proposals refer to memorials on land owned by SCC. I do not have any specific comments regarding our city's memorials, except to say they enhance our city.

We hope and request that the [...] feedback points on the final state approved, and soon to be voted on, draft policy will be of assistance for all new potential public monuments establishment proposed projects once the policy is formally approved by the Council. Some of these points are technical clarifications in nature ones, but we rightly commence with making a fundamental observation on study of the document you have kindly asked us to review – namely the following question. The policy document does not include at all -- or at least in our view on study of its details – not clearly answer the question ‘why is such a policy needed’? There is of course a very understandable practical day to day answer to this question. [...] simply that public monuments proposals have been made for a very long time, involve many different technical and legal complying dimensions, and as such instituting a policy to bring all of the latter together for new proposed statues/plaques, etc. will provide a valuable practical service to the projects proposers, SCC itself, and various relevant interested parties. This could be described as the core functional purpose of the policy proposed, and as such of central importance to different departments of SCC in the smooth running of the work area remits they oversee. I am sure you would agree that this is an accurate assessment of the direct SCC need for the creation of the policy. However, public monuments (statues/plaques, etc.) have a unique special significance and purpose that simple planning applications compliance considerations do not have. Namely, they relate to reminding of some story of major significance and importance at social, local community, and even visitors from outside the given location/city/village, etc. these have – namely they have [depending on the subject of the given project] a major awareness-raising, personal reflection on a given subject of value and importance, educational and information provision purpose of a significant, or perceived significant kind. [...] Roughly speaking the in process [...], with total support from the Council of Southampton Gurdwaras, project is a ‘20%’ statue, ‘80%’ educational resources creation and strategic dissemination to multiple key relevant audiences (from schools and colleges and universities, to SCC councillors and senior to frontline officers, to visitors to Southampton, and to members of the three Armed Forces) one. It could be that not a few new project proposals that are submitted after the new policy is instituted have a similar level of importance regarding educational resources creation and subsequent key audiences for these dissemination. We therefore strongly advise that the policy include reference to this key matter of public monuments/plaques educational purpose. We also suggest that SCC consider that these include potential online and ‘on the ground’ learning/educational trails as a feature of this crucially important education and learning purpose. [...] Therefore the new policy should include what relevant public monuments/statues/plaques already exist and how these can connect to new project ones so that the former too are ‘discovered’ and become better known – there is a clearly exciting an important given thematic based public monuments and plaques ‘history trail’ across the city potential in this.

Positive comments around the policy

Seems a really practical way forward to manage Council resources, whilst not inhibiting truly worthy projects.

It is a good thing that you are doing this, and the effort involved will certainly enable a diverse community to move forward provided everyone on the decision-making body is fair-minded and attentive to the wider health of the community -- it is always a hard thing to do and the course of history means that some things will be got wrong -- but the intention and the effort are signs of health in themselves.

We are broadly supportive of the policy with one or two caveats.

I strongly approve all the proposals and suggestions in this document.