

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Holocaust Memorial Service 19th September 2024

Report of Senior Manager, Democratic Support and Elections

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the Committee to consider the future of the Holocaust Memorial Service.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

Considers the future of the Holocaust Memorial Service.

1. Holocaust Memorial Service

For the past 10 years, More Music have co-ordinated a programme of activities during the week of Holocaust Memorial which is the last week of January each year, including a ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance at Lancaster Town Hall. This is followed by refreshments in the Banqueting Suite in the Town Hall when there would be local speakers and entertainment from musicians.

For the past five years this has been supported by a time limited legacy donation, which has now ended. More Music no longer have the resources to deliver the event. In light of this, the City Council has been approached by More Music to take over the commemorative event at Lancaster Town Hall. Currently, the Council has an annual budget of £300 for this event which goes towards the room hire and refreshments – including the cost of staff attending and opening/closing of the building.

A representative from More Music has offered to continue organising the event at a cost of £15 per hour over approximately 30 hours which equates to at least £450.

The other costs for this event - as it has been marked previously - are :

£150 for a Jewish Klezmer band

£100 for the decor

£100 for choir performances

£800 costs for room hire and refreshments at external rates.

The total being £1600.

The Committee is requested to consider the request from More Music to fund an event to mark the occasion and what form that might take, bearing in mind that any expenditure over £300 would have to be vired from the Civic Reception and Mayoral Functions budget of £7,000 in 2024/25. If there is a decision to fund the event going forward, this will need to be agreed by Council when setting future budgets.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is requested to consider whether the Council wishes to take over the management of the Holocaust Memorial Service and the following event within the Town Hall and, if so, make recommendations with regard to the resourcing of the event.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Members need to have due regard to their duties under the Equality Act 2010 when considering the discharge of their functions on this matter. S149 of the Equality Act 2010 provides:

S149

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to :
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) A person who is not a public authority but who exercises public functions must, in the exercise of those functions, have due regard to the matters mentioned in subsection
- (3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
 - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

(c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

(4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

(5) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—

(a) tackle prejudice, and

(b) promote understanding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As stated in the report the Civic budget has included £300 each year for Holocaust Memorial. The Mayor's budget for Civic Receptions and Mayoral Functions is separate and was set at £7,000 for 2024/25. £4,800 is currently remaining.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

none

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and would refer Member to the comments by the Monitoring Officer regarding budget virements.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

With the agreement of the S151 Officer, Chief Officers (or their nominated representatives) may approve virements between budgets under their control for the proposed amount.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

none

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