

## **MOTION ON NOTICE**

### **CELEBRATING ERIC MORECAMBE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**

#### **Council Notes:**

- That 14 May 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of John Eric Bartholomew, known professionally as Eric Morecambe, born in Morecambe, Lancashire.
- Eric Morecambe was a nationally beloved comedian and entertainer, widely recognised as one of Britain's greatest entertainers.
- His legacy continues to attract visitors and remains a source of civic pride and cultural heritage for Morecambe.
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#### **Council Believes:**

- That Eric Morecambe's centenary provides an opportunity to promote the town's cultural identity, tourism, and local economy.
- That the Council should play a leading role in supporting and facilitating appropriate celebrations.

#### **Council Resolves:**

- To formally recognise and celebrate Eric Morecambe's 100th birthday on or around 14 May 2026.
- To work in partnership with local organisations, community groups, and businesses to plan and deliver public events, exhibitions, and other commemorative activities.
- To explore potential funding streams or sponsorship opportunities to support these celebrations without placing undue burden on council finances.
- To establish a working group of councillors, officers, and community representatives to coordinate the centenary programme, reporting back to Full Council with proposals by March 2026

**PROPOSERS:** Councillors Matthew Black, Joanne Ainscough, Louise Belcher, Phillip Black, Ruth Colbridge, Claire Cozler, John Hanson, Jean Parr and Margaret Pattison.

### **OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE**

There is a commitment within the Council Plan 2024-27 to provide access to culture and leisure (3.3) and ensure local communities are active, engaged, involved and connected (3.4). Working collaboratively with partners to commemorate the 100th birthday of Eric Morecambe supports delivery of aspects of our Council plan including providing access to and involvement in arts, culture, leisure and recreation, supporting our thriving arts, culture and heritage sector and ensuring local communities are active, engaged, involved and connected.

Informal discussions have commenced at an officer level between Comms, Marketing and Museums and Morecambe BID, to start working up initial proposals. Should the motion be accepted, officers will look at lead organisations and resource and there may be a budgetary ask if the event cannot be delivered within existing resource available, dependant on size and scale of the planned event.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.