

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	11 MARCH 2021	5

SPITFIRE MEMORIAL

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report seeks a decision on the adoption of the Spitfire Memorial at Fairhaven Lake by Fylde Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are requested to:

1. Agree to accept the transfer of the ownership of the Spitfire memorial to Fylde Council at no cost.
2. Agree that Fylde Council takes on the management and maintenance of the Spitfire memorial for a minimum period of 20 years.
3. That the agreement entered into between Fylde Council and John Coombes dated 26/7/2012 be terminated and a new agreement drafted incorporating the terms set out in the report.
4. That the cost of annual maintenance of the Spitfire Memorial be met from existing budgets, although the periodic costs of refurbishment and repainting will need to be the subject of a capital bid at the appropriate time.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Cabinet 20 July 2011

Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and at the meeting and RESOLVED:

1. To endorse the principle of the proposal received from The Spitfire Memorial Fund to develop a Spitfire Memorial in Lytham St Annes.
2. That officers work in support of the Spitfire Memorial Fund to identify a preferred location for the Memorial and to provide technical, engineering and planning advice to the Memorial Fund organisers.
3. That the final details of the proposal be brought back to Cabinet for approval.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

REPORT

BACKGROUND

1. In 2011 the former Leader, John Coombes approached the Council with a proposal to create and install a permanent memorial to be located in an appropriate position in Lytham St Anne’s in recognition of the local efforts made during WW2 to fund the provision of a Spitfire aircraft in support of the war effort.
2. A report was considered by Cabinet in July 2011 which proposed several locations for the memorial including Fairhaven Lake Gardens. Cabinet endorsed the principle of the proposal to develop a Spitfire Memorial.
3. Subsequently Fairhaven Lake was selected as being the best location and an agreement entered into with Mr Coombes (the Licensee) dated 26 July 2012. This allows the siting of a full sized replica of a Mark VB Spitfire airplane memorial with associated landscaping and lighting. The Licensee is responsible for all maintenance, repair and insurance. The agreement runs for a period of 3 years from the date of the licence agreement and thereafter until the expiry of not less than 3 months notice given by either party.
4. Since installation, the Spitfire Memorial has been a popular attraction for visitors to Fairhaven Lake.
5. Last year Mr Coombes approached the Council to advise that there was less funding being generated by the Spitfire Display Team for the upkeep of the Memorial due to a number of factors. A consequence of this is that insurance cover has now expired. Without sustainable funding being realised there is a risk that the Spitfire will need to be removed. As a result, Mr Coombes has requested that the Council take over the ownership of the Memorial.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Discussions have taken place to identify the ongoing maintenance responsibilities and costs involved. These are set out in the table below.

Cost element	Cost
Annual costs: Insurance, electrical checking and cleaning.	£2,000 per annum
Periodic costs: Renovation/repainting around every 5 years based on the work being done during the summer using access platforms (with no tent wrap of the structure). Next due 2024.	£15,000

7. Officers have assessed and considered the above elements of ongoing costs and consider that the annual costs in the region of £2,000 can be met from existing budgets, although the periodic costs would need to be the subject of a capital bid at the appropriate time.
8. Provisionally agreed terms have been reached with the Licensee on the following basis:
 - a. That the Licensee will;
 - transfer the ownership of the Spitfire memorial to Fylde Borough Council at no cost, Value of the asset estimated at £130,000.
 - pass over any documents, manuals, or other information which may be necessary in the future management of the memorial.

- continue to update the memorial interpretation story boards to ensure information is kept up to date.
- b. That Fylde Borough Council will;
- manage and maintain the Spitfire memorial for a minimum period of 20 years
- c. That the agreement entered into between Fylde Council and John Coombes dated 26/7/2012 will be terminated and a new agreement drafted incorporating the above.
9. Members are asked to consider the above request and to agree to take on the ownership and maintenance of the Spitfire Memorial as set out above.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The cost of annual maintenance of the Spitfire Memorial will be met from existing revenue budgets, although the periodic costs of refurbishment and repainting will need to be the subject of a capital bid at the appropriate time.
Legal	The legal implications of terminating the existing licence agreement and the transfer of the asset are set out in the report.
Community Safety	There are no implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Document name		Council office or web address