



## Cabinet

1 December 2020

**Report of:** Councillor Kelham Cooke  
The Leader of the Council

# Public Realm Improvements, St Peter's Hill, Grantham

South Kesteven District Council is working in partnership with the Grantham Community Heritage Association and The Public Memorials Appeal on a project to deliver and install a statue of the late Baroness Margaret Thatcher. The statue was commissioned and funded by The Public Memorials Appeal and is due to be unveiled on St Peter's Hill, Grantham in 2021. This report relates to the arrangements for the associated works and the event to unveil the statue.

### Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
Growth	Non-Key	Grantham St Wulfram's
Reviewed by:	Ken Lyon, Assistant Chief Executive	20 November 2020
Approved by:	Gary Smith, Strategic Director Commercial and Operations	20 November 2020
Signed off by:	Cllr Kelham Cooke – The Leader of the Council	23 November 2020

### Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. Cabinet is asked to approve the installation of the statue on St Peter's Hill Green, in accordance with the agreed planning permission.
2. To approve a budget allocation from the Local Priorities Reserve and authorise expenditure of up to £100k to underwrite the statue unveiling event and any consequential works. Any fundraising from the public, businesses and others will go towards funding this budget allocation.
3. To approve the engagement of an external organisation, as part of the above allocation, to coordinate the unveiling, including event management, communications and fundraising campaign.
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Monitoring Officer, the authority to enter into a deed of gift agreement with The

**Public Memorials Appeal to transfer the ownership of the statue to the Council from the point of installation.**

## **1 The Background to the Report**

- 1.1 The statue project is the result of an agreement between Grantham Community Heritage Association (GCHA, aka Grantham Museum), South Kesteven District Council and The Public Memorials Appeal. Originally destined for London, the statue was funded by The Public Memorials Appeal and further money to support the project was raised by the GCHA Margaret Thatcher Appeal.
- 1.2 The Public Memorials Appeal commissioned the bronze statue and worked with a stonemason to design and commission the plinth for the statue. In addition, The Public Memorials Appeal commissioned and arranged for three plaques to be fixed to the plinth once installed.
- 1.3 All funding from The Public Memorials Appeal was raised through public subscription and donations.
- 1.4 GCHA undertook local fund-raising activities and events which funded associated project costs including the foundation base for the plinth, the installation of the statue and other archaeological and survey works.
- 1.5 The unveiling of the statue provides an opportunity for Grantham's community to celebrate its heritage. The event will be used to promote 'Inspirational Women of South Kesteven' including Edith Smith who served in Grantham as the first female warranted police officer in the country and Harriet Arbuthnot, close friend and advisor of the Duke of Wellington when he was Prime Minister between 1828-1830.
- 1.6 Celebrating the area's rich heritage is part of the Council's plans to regenerate Grantham and to ensure all that the District has to offer continues to be promoted.
- 1.7 The statue is expected to attract many visitors to the area which will increase Grantham and South Kesteven's status as a destination for tourism with the associated benefits that brings.
- 1.8 An increase in visitor numbers to the area will boost the local economy and benefit our local shops and businesses.
- 1.9 The interest from visitors to the area will support Grantham Museum and enable them to develop their permanent Margaret Thatcher exhibition which already attracts thousands of people each year.
- 1.10 InvestSK is keen to work closely to use the statue and unveiling to attract inward investment and to promote the plans and benefits from the Future High Streets Fund initiative. InvestSK has also developed a film to celebrate 'Inspirational Women of South Kesteven' which complements any wider community legacy work.
- 1.11 The unveiling event is expected to attract a high level of national and potentially international media attention which will provide many opportunities for the Council and InvestSK to showcase and promote the District.
- 1.12 There will be costs to holding an event of this scale. This has to be balanced against the potential benefit of commemorating one of the most famous people to have come from Grantham, and the opportunity for the statue and unveiling event to attract global attention. It is proposed that an external organisation is engaged to oversee the unveiling, including planning the event, coordinating event logistics, handle stakeholder management and manage communications.

- 1.13 There is an element of cost to hold any successful large scale event which will also include essential elements to ensure that security and public safety is maintained. This will include the provision of essential logistical equipment and personnel for the event such as barriers, stewarding and medical support.
- 1.14 The Council intends to launch a community and business fundraising appeal to secure contributions to fund the event. This will be planned and managed by an external organisation who will prepare the approach and methodology for the fundraising appeal.
- 1.15 On-going maintenance costs for the statue will be met by existing maintenance budgets. This will be reviewed by the Council as part of the annual budget setting process from 2022/23 onwards.
- 1.16 A 'Deed of Gift' will be drawn up to reflect the transfer of ownership of the statue and plinth from The Public Memorials Appeal to the Council.

## **2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny**

- 2.1 Discussions about bringing the statue to Grantham began in earnest in July 2018. This was followed by an event in November 2018 at Grantham Museum to unveil plans for the statue prior to a planning application to the Council for the installation of the statue, plinth and paved surround.
- 2.2 The planning application was considered by the Planning Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The application was approved subject to planning conditions for a written scheme of Archaeological Investigation being submitted and approved; recommendations from the arboriculture survey being complied with and materials for the paved surround being submitted and approved. All planning conditions have been met and discharged.
- 2.3 All Council run festivals and events are discussed at the Lincolnshire Event Safety Partnership's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) in order that event management plans incorporate their recommendations. Representatives from the relevant emergency services, including Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue and East Midlands Ambulance Service attend the Group together with other agencies such as Lincolnshire County Council Highways and Lincolnshire County Council Emergency Planning and Business Continuity.
- 2.4 The unveiling event has been discussed at several SAG meetings and officers continue to liaise and consult with SAG members prior to the unveiling event.

## **3 Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 The Council could install the statue with little or no event to support it. Even holding a 'low key' event means that certain basic costs would be incurred to ensure that the event is both safe and well run. However, the unveiling event is likely to attract a high level of interest from both the general public and the media. It is anticipated that a large number of people will want to attend. In order to fully maximise the opportunities that both the statue and the event will bring, it is proposed that the Council ensures adequate funding for the event to celebrate the occasion and maximise the promotional opportunities that the event will bring for Grantham and the District.

## **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 To approve the installation of the statue and complete a deed of gift agreement with The Public Memorials Appeal.

- 4.2 The preferred option is for the Council to agree to allocate funding to underwrite the event unveiling works and to launch a fundraising campaign to seek to cover these costs. This would be supported by an external organisation.
- 4.3 If the Council installed the statue without an unveiling event this would miss the opportunity to capitalise on the potential benefits provided by the installation of the statue and to mark the occasion for Grantham and South Kesteven.

## **5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)**

- 5.1 To ensure the Council maximise the opportunities of installing the statue and hosting a significant event for Grantham and the District.

## **6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision**

- 6.1 To commission specialist organisation to manage the event management and fundraising campaign. To finalise the deed of gift agreement with The Public Memorials Appeal. To confirm a date for the unveiling of the statue and progress with all plans and arrangements for the event.

## **7 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to allocate £100k to underwrite this project and deliver the outcomes that are detailed in the report. This allocation will be taken from the Local Priorities Reserve. As stated, there are a number of community and business fundraising events that will take place in order to reduce the cost share to the Council, but it is prudent to allocate the total provision to ensure a quality event is delivered. In accordance with the Financial Regulations approved by Council on 31 January 2020, Cabinet can approve additions to the budget framework of up to £150k per item (and cumulatively £500k per financial year).

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Interim Director of Finance**

## **8 Legal and Governance Implications**

- 8.1 The Council can accept the gift of a statue subject to the conditions attached to the planning permission being discharged. If the event requires road closures or other highways consents, then these should be obtained in good time prior to the event.
- 8.2 The deed of gift will also need to be agreed between the Council and The Public Memorial Appeal prior to the installation of the statue. The deed will need to clearly agree any costs; liabilities; insurances; and responsibilities for maintenance and other costs after the statue is received into Council ownership. Appropriate budgetary provision will also need to be made for any ongoing liability and clarity needed if these are to be in perpetuity. The Council will also need to reserve its ability to move, decommission or otherwise exercise control over the statue in future years.
- 8.3 Cabinet should also ensure that it is satisfied that fundraising proposals are sufficiently robust to ensure that the full cost outlay of £100k can be realised.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Shahin Ismail, Director of Law and Governance**

## **9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications**

- 9.1 In line with all Council run festivals and events the unveiling event will have a designated accredited steward responsible for safeguarding to respond to any issues of lost/found children or vulnerable adults.

## **10 Risk and Mitigation**

- 10.1 The Event Management Plan and Risk Assessments for the event will incorporate recommendations from the Safety Advisory Group to ensure that all aspects of event security and public safety are maintained.
- 10.2 All works required for the installation of the statue, plinth and paved area will be carried out in accordance with relevant health and safety procedures and the conditions associated with the planning approval.
- 10.3 The engagement of an external organisation to spearhead the fundraising helps to guard against the risk that the full event costs are not recouped through the fundraising campaign.

## **11 Community Safety Implications**

- 11.1 St Peter's Hill Green and the Public Realm area is covered by the Council's CCTV which is monitored 24 hours a day. All works required to install the statue and paved area will be done within a securely fenced area to ensure that people cannot enter.

## **12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a 'climate emergency'?**

- 12.1 Nothing of relevance identified when preparing this report.

## **13 Other Implications (where significant)**

- 13.1 No other significant implications identified.

## **14 Background Papers**

- 14.1 Planning application: <http://moderngovsvr:8080/documents/s22157/S18%20202171%20-%20First.pdf>

## **15 Appendices**

- 15.1 None.

<b>Report Timeline:</b>	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required)	Not applicable
	Previously Considered by:	Not applicable
	Final Decision date	1 December 2020