

## **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report invites Members to consider the commissioning of an art project to commemorate the Holocaust and other conflicts.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Council commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day each year, which aims to remember all victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution. Advice from the Holocaust Memorial department within Central Government is that this day also offers an opportunity to reflect upon those affected by more recent atrocities, such as Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Kosovo.
- 2.2 The Chairman of the Council has suggested that for the ceremony next January Rochford District Council should consider commissioning a permanent memorial rather than a memorial tree or rose.

### **3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **3.1 The Proposal**

It is suggested that a metalwork sculpture be commissioned following a public design competition. A local metalwork fabricator has already promised to build the piece, at no cost in terms of his time and the provision of materials.

The design competition could be open to all age groups, with designs being invited for a metalwork sculpture to be no more than 1.5m high for mounting on a plinth of approx. 0.5m high.

It is suggested that the competition be open for 10 weeks with closing date of 12 September. The competition would be publicised via local media, schools and colleges, libraries and supported by a poster display.

The shortlisted entries would then be put on display at Mill Hall for the public to vote for the winning entry, which would then be commissioned for completion prior to next January.

#### **3.2 Production, Siting and Unveiling**

Approximately three months would be necessary for fabrication.

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The suggested site for the sculpture is the rose bed near the Beacon, outside Mill Hall, in Rayleigh. This is where the Peace rose and plaque were placed during the service in 2002. The official unveiling of the permanently sited sculpture would be during the public inter-denominational service held in January.

**4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As with any memorial in a public place, the proposed Holocaust memorial may become the subject of vandalism. However, its design and siting should be such as to discourage such activity.

**5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The time and materials required for the sculpture would be donated, so the only costs to the Council would be in terms of staff time, materials, and organising the competition. These could be accommodated within existing budget provision. Any future maintenance associated with the structure would fall to the Council, but this is likely to be minimal.

**6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the project as outlined be considered and, that ,subject to any views, approval of its implementation be recommended. (CE)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:**

None

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