

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S  
REPORT TO

Council  
28 June 2023

Report Title: 850<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations & Legacy

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships, and Culture, Leisure and Heritage

Ward(s) affected: All Wards within the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Council on the 850<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations and the legacy programme being delivered as part of the Year.

Recommendation

That Council notes:-

1. the progress made with the 850<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations programme of activity
2. the development of the legacy programme including:-
  - a) An annual award ceremony to celebrate individuals from our borough who make an outstanding contribution to their community
  - b) An educational programme for young people, introducing them to sustainable engineering careers and University opportunities
  - c) Commissioning a statue of the late Monarch Queen Elizabeth II for Newcastle under Lyme Town Centre funded through the sale of 11 limited edition bronze maquettes
  - d) The 850 Lyme Forest

## Reasons

*As part of the 850<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations it has been agreed to create a cultural legacy for the Borough as well as celebrate the many magnificent assets of the Borough created over its long history.*

### 1. Background

- 1.1 *The 850<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations were launched in January 2023 and a whole year of activity has been planned, based around a twelve-month celebration of the many magnificent assets of the Borough, created over its long history. Each month a different theme of celebration has been used to base historical programmes of activity for schools, residents and visitors.*
- 1.2 *In the first weekend in June 2023 the Brampton Museum held the “Celebrate Newcastle” event on the Brampton which was attended by over 3000 residents and visitors. The event celebrated the medieval history and the early roots of the Borough.*
- 1.3 *Each month during this 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary year the borough celebrates someone who has made a significant contribution to the borough’s status and reputation. These celebrations are through talks at the Brampton Museum, themed around:*
  - *Firsts & Pioneers*
  - *Business & Industry*
  - *Writing & Literature*
  - *Military*
  - *Performing Arts*
  - *Sports*
  - *Heroes*
  - *Rights & Protests*
  - *Art*
  - *Science & Engineering*
- 1.4 *The programme of talks will culminate in a celebration of some of our “living legends”.*

1.5 One key cornerstone of the 850<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations is the legacy programme that the celebrations will create. These will be cultural, leisure and educational in nature and are addressed below.

## 2. Legacy Projects

### *Borough Heroes*

2.1 In March the first Borough Heroes Awards were held as part of the Mayor's Charity Ball. Three awards were granted:

- **Community Champion** - Briony Bowler has been involved with scouts since the age of six. Supporting the Beaver and Cub sections at the 94th Keele Scout Group as a young leader from the age of 14, once Briony turned 18 she proposed launching a scout section for older youngsters. Her energy and enthusiasm made it work and she used all her ingenuity to keep it going during the pandemic. Now around 50 youngsters attend, under the supervision of 12 leaders, where once there was nothing.
- **Young Hero** - Hannah Wollas volunteered to help at Kidsgrove Sports Centre when it re-opened. The 17-year-old began by cleaning, trained to become a receptionist and is now a qualified volunteer lifeguard. Hannah is now the centre's first apprentice and is preparing to qualify as both a swimming and fitness instructor.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** - Jim Worgan is a walking archive of the history of the Borough and wider North Staffordshire, having spent 40 years researching. The last curator of Chatterley Whitfield mining museum until its closure in 1993, Jim remains an authority on the history of coal and ironstone mining here. Between 1990 and 2017 he gathered an extensive collection of photographs, articles and memorabilia connected to the industry, which he donated to the Brampton Museum and Apedale Heritage Centre. Jim was granted the Freedom of the Borough in 2021.

2.2 The Borough Heroes Awards will become an annual celebration of those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to their community.

## *Education*

- 2.3 *As a legacy of the 850 anniversary, the Council has been keen to establish a programme to encourage the young people of Newcastle under Lyme to make the most of the world class university on our doorstep - Keele University, who fully support this ambition.*
- 2.4 *GivEnergy are a British owned battery storage manufacturer with manufacturing, research and development facilities in the UK, Ireland, Australia and Shenzhen, China. They are based in Newcastle-under-Lyme and are expanding.*
- 2.5 *The company are keen that green energy engineering skills are developed locally within the Borough - to grow awareness of the skill sets required for the future and to provide skilled employees for their expanding workforce here in the Borough.*
- 2.6 *After discussions with all parties it has been proposed that GivEnergy will fund a two-day and one-night residential for a group of 85 year 10 students from low participation areas of Newcastle-under-Lyme, as part of the 850 Year Celebrations. The young people will be immersed in a university and campus experience at Keele University. The residential stay will give the young people a real-life university experience, whilst exploring sustainability and clean energy, along with the heritage of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.*
- 2.7 *During their stay, the young people will visit the Sustainability bungalow, Weigh and Go station in the Students Union and Horwood Energy Centre. The Horwood Energy centre will put into context how the energy generated by the wind turbines and solar panels is distributed around the campus. They will also visit the Low Carbon Energy Park to see the university's wind turbines and solar panels.*
- 2.8 *The young people will also experience university lectures and seminars, delivered by academics who are experts in their field, with a focus on science and sustainability.*
- 2.9 *The event will be an annual event and will be badged as an 850<sup>th</sup> Year legacy. It will be targeted at:-*
- Schools in geographic areas Bradwell, Silverdale and Knutton especially but open to all areas*

- Year 10 students, age 14-15
- TUNDRA Quintile 1 & 2
- First in the family to attend Higher Education (parents/carers have no experience of Higher Education)
- In receipt of pupil premium / free school meals
- Currently in care or previously in care
- Estranged
- Young Carers
- Have a parent in the military services
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Underrepresented ethnic groups, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
- Young people with a disability

2.10 As part of the legacy, the Council will award a bursary of £1000 to one of the cohort who go through this programme and subsequently secure a place at Keele University.

#### *Statue - Queen Elizabeth II*

2.11 The third element of the legacy will be a statue to the late monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, to be placed in Queens Gardens.

2.12 The Council has engaged local sculptor Andrew Edwards to design the statue. Mr Edwards has an international reputation for his bronze statues which include of The Beatles in Liverpool, Sir Stanley Matthews in Stoke and The Bee Gees in the Isle of Man, to name but a few. Locally, many will know Mr Edwards as the sculptor who worked with local apprentices to design and produce the public art on the borough's key roundabouts.

2.13 The late Queen visited the borough in 1973 to mark our 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and conducted a walkabout in the town centre, speaking to many in the huge crowds who turned out to greet her. The event generated some iconic images of the Queen and one of these has been used by Mr Edwards as the basis from which to create a small bronze maquette, and thereby creating a statue which is both a fitting tribute to the late queen, and distinctively "Newcastle" in design. The maquette also provides a powerful link between the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1973 the 850<sup>th</sup> celebrations now ongoing.

2.14 *The small bronze maquette by Andrew Edwards was designed in a small studio that he has established at the Newcastle College campus on Knutton Lane, as an educational element to the Arts students at the College.*

2.15 *There will be 11 individually numbered limited edition maquettes produced and offered for sale at a cost of £8,500 each. This will generate the funds to cover the costs of a “one and quarter life sized” statue that will be placed in the Queens Gardens.*

### *The Lyme Forest*

2.16 *Linked to the Council’s Urban Tree Planting Strategy which contributes to the Sustainable Environment Strategy Action Plan, the 850 Lyme Forest was planted at land on the boundary of the former Keele Golf Course in April 2023. It consists of 850 lime trees, alongside around 2000 other native broadleaf trees. This forest will form part of an essential mosaic of local greenspace sites that will be protected for the benefit of nature recovery and carbon capture for the future and in time, further carbon reduction opportunities on selected sites will also be considered with community involvement.*

### 3. *Legal, Statutory and Financial Implications*

3.1 *There are no legal, statutory or financial implications arising from this report*