

CENTENARY END OF GREAT WAR CELEBRATIONS For Decision	21st AUGUST 2018
CORPORATE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Visit to the Somme as part of Council's Centenary End of Great War Celebrations
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services
Cost: (If applicable)	£745 pp

1.0 Background

Council's Centenary End of Great War Working Group was established in August 2017 to provide a collective forum for Elected Members and community stakeholders to work in partnership to mark the Centenary of the End of World War 1 in November 2018.

The Somme Association is no longer licenced to organise visits to the Somme as in previous years therefore another provider has been identified. The only local company operating a November tour to the scheme is Thompson Travel, based in Portadown, who are offering 'The Somme – 100 Years' tour as follows:

Date	Sat 10 th Nov - Tues 13 th Nov
Flights	Dublin - Brussels
Accommodation	4* Parkhotel, Kortrijk
Cost	£595 pp sharing/£745 single

The proposed itinerary for the trip is attached as Appendix 1. Given the early departure from Dublin airport, overnight accommodation can be arranged for Friday 9th November if required.

2.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee make recommendation to Council on the number of attendees and method of appointment.

Itinerary - 'The Somme – 100 Years' Tour

10 November 2018

- Depart Dublin at 7am, arrival in Brussels at 10.30 am local time (pick up point for coach to Dublin tbc)
- Drive to Mons where Irish lieutenant Maurice Dease earned the first VC of the Great War
- St Symphorien military cemetery
- Lunch at the Grand Place of Mons
- Afternoon/evening at leisure Dinner and overnight stay at Parkhotel Kortrijk

11 November 2018

- Depart hotel at 8.30 am. Morning at leisure in Ypres
- In Flanders Fields Museum
- Poppy Parade and Last Post Ceremony
- Lunch in Ypres
- Drive from Ypres via the Locre area to Kemmel
- Visit to the 'Irish blood on Flemish soil' exhibition in the Heuvelland Visitor Centre
- From Kemmel to the Spanbroekmolen Crater to the two memorials for the Irish divisions
- Mine Battle of Messines Ridge museum and the Island of Ireland Peace Park, Messines
- Plugstreet to the site of the 1914 Christmas Truce
- Hill 60
- Evening at leisure, dinner and overnight stay at Parkhotel Kortrijk

12 November 2018

- Depart from hotel at 8.30 am
- Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel
- Ulster Tower and the Thiepval Memorial and Visitor Cemetery
- Drive from Thiepval to Albert for lunch
- Lochnagar Crater
- Drive from La Boiselle through Fricourt to Devonshire Trench Cemetery at Mametz
- Onwards to Longueval to the South African Memorial and Museum at Delville Wood
- From Longueval via High Wood to Pozières to the memorial to the 1st Australian Division, the Australian Memorial Park and the Tank Memorial
- Canadian Memorial of Courcellette and the battlefield of the Butte de Warlencourt
- Evening at leisure, dinner and overnight stay at Parkhotel Kortrijk

13 November 2018

- Departure from the hotel at 8.30 am
- Shot At Dawn site, Poperinge
- Essex Farm Cemetery and the John McCrae Memorial
- Steenstraete and Bikschoote
- Via Carrefour des Roses, a French memorial site, drive to the Francis Ledwige Memorial and the poet's grave at Artillery Wood Cemetery
- German military cemetery, Langemark
- Drive to Polygon Wood for lunch at the Drev to see a private exhibition on the Underground warfare
- Via Zonnebeke and 's Graventafel Ridge we drive up to Tyne Cot Cemetery
- From Tyne Cot via the village of Passchendaele to Brussels International Airport
- Depart Brussels at 7 pm, arrival in Dublin at 7.30 pm local time (return coach drop off point tbc)