

## **Cabinet – 27 January 2021**

### **Recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 19 January 2021**

#### **The Lower Sunbury Lendy Memorial Lion**

1. At its meeting held on 19 January 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered two issues:
  1. the report written about the Lendy memorial by Alan Doyle and to recommend to Cabinet a course of action based on the information currently available.
  2. whether to accept the offer of supporting an application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a grant to undertake further research on the Lendy statue. a grant to undertake further research on the Lendy statue
2. The Committee scrutinised the officers report.
3. Members discussed the online petition to save the Lendy Memorial and noted that it had over 2,100 signatures. Members also noted that the local community had expressed their support for the Memorial in posts about the memorial on the Council's social media accounts.
4. Members noted that the police had contacted officers and advised them to protect the memorial as there were concerns for its safety but agreed they did not believe there was any evidence to suggest the memorial was in danger at present. Members discussed the possibility of installing CCTV at the site but concluded it was not necessary.
5. Members strongly agreed that they would like information to be provided about the memorial in an appropriate format at the site and thanked Alan Doyle for providing the Committee with his detailed and well-informed research.
6. Members noted the academics proposal and their intention to carry out the research with or without the Councils support. Some members queried the provenance of the academics, who were reported to specialise in the history of North East Africa and the Caribbean, whereas the Lendy brothers had been posted to South East Africa, however, the Committee agreed that having access to a range of information to consider would be appropriate and show the Council was taking a holistic view.

The Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet:

**Recommendation 1:**

- i. The Council supports the views of residents, as expressed in the petition. The statue should immediately be uncovered and left in place.
- ii. The Council provides at the site a plaque containing historical information, with more detailed information available, for example through a QR code.
- iii. The Committee agrees that the Council works with local informed sources and their wealth of information so other suggestions for ensuring access to detailed background information can be pursued, such as a booklet in the Embroidery Gallery and the involvement of the well-respected local history society.

**Recommendation 2:**

- i. Spelthorne provides a letter of support for the proposed application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a grant for academics to undertake further research on the Lendy statue.
- ii. Should any new information come to light the Council will review it and come to its own decision.
- iii. That this resolution should not delay the actions proposed in recommendation 1.

**Councillor Vivienne Leighton**

**Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 27 January 2021**