



Subject:	Shrouds of the Somme exhibition
Date:	17 August 2018
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Kirsten Mullen, Project Sponsor

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Members on the plans for the up-coming Shrouds of the Somme exhibition and associated official opening event.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee is asked to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The date, time and location of the official opening event for Shrouds of the Somme• The details of the exhibition, including duration, location and opening times.

3.0	Main report
3.1	At its meeting on 18 May 2018, committee agreed to host the Shrouds of the Somme exhibition at City Hall from Thursday 23 August to Sunday 16 September 2018.
3.2	Shrouds of the Somme is an extraordinarily powerful piece of commemorative art, which marks the centenary of the end of the First World War in 2018.
3.3	Artist, Rob Heard, has created over 72,000 hand crafted shrouded figures to represent men from across the Commonwealth who died at the Battle of the Somme but have no known grave, and whose names appear on the Thiepval memorial.
3.4	In November, these figures will be laid out in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London to commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day. In advance of this, an element of the overall exhibition will come to Belfast and be hosted in the City Hall grounds.
3.5	For the exhibition in Belfast, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, working with Shrouds of the Somme, has now identified 3,775 names, representing those from the Ulster and Irish regiments, or from Belfast, who died in the Battle of the Somme and have no known grave.
3.6	Each of these 3,775 men will be represented by a shrouded figure, laid out in the Garden of Remembrance. Each man's name, regiment and rank, along with any military honour will be listed on an interpretative panel, which will sit alongside the main installation.
3.7	In advance of the exhibition opening, Property and Projects officers are working with Marketing and Corporate Communications to deliver an integrated communications plan involving social media, web, e-marketing and media releases. Information on the exhibition is also contained in the current edition of City Matters and has been featured on Visit Belfast's social media platforms. Exhibition leaflets have also been distributed to council venues, hotels and numerous tourist/leisure venues.
3.8	Members are reminded that an official opening event, hosted by Lord Mayor, has been planned for Thursday 23 August from 11am – 12noon in the Reception Room, City Hall with invitations issued by the Lord Mayor's office for the event.
3.9	The exhibition will then run until Sunday 16 September. Access will be free and during normal City Hall grounds opening hours (7am-9pm each day).

3.10	There will be a 24 hour security presence at the exhibition throughout the duration of the exhibition.
3.11	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Financial - The costs will be met from existing 2018/19 departmental budgets. Resources – Resources will be provided by Property & Projects and appropriate departments in arranging the event</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.12	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None