

## Local authority commemorative plaque schemes

## APPENDIX A

Name of erecting body	What is commemorated	Where plaques can be erected	Time since death/event	Criteria	Funding	Comments
Borough of Poole (Museums & Arts Manager) with Poole Heritage Forum	People Events	Original building where the person lived or event took place	20 years	Born/lived/worked in Poole for at least 5 years Instantly recognisable to passer by Visible to passers by Requires unambiguous documentary evidence	Proposer	Promoted by Poole Heritage Forum Guidance suggests sources of funding and suggest plaque could cost between £500 and £5000
Dudley MBC (Director of Urban Environment)	People Events	Original where person lived or worked	15 years	Must have written consent from owner of property and confirmation of future ownership	Proposers (council responsible for assessing costs and carrying out installation work but not costs themselves)	
South Tyneside Council	People Building	Existing original building where born, lived or worked or discovery made	Not stated		Council?	
Hinckley & Bosworth DC (Conservation Officer)	People Events		20 years or born > 100 years ago	Accessible and visible to public Two independent sources of evidence Person must be famous or want to raise profile	Publicly funded with no sponsorship	
Manchester City Council (Manchester Art Gallery)	People Events		10 years (people) 25 years (event)	Person commemorated should have been eminent and sufficiently famous for his or her name to be familiar to a succeeding generation	Proposer	Not normally installed on hotels or public venues (e.g. concert hall)
Salford City Council	People Events	Building which is directly and significantly related to the proposed person or event	10 years (people) 25 years (event)	Sufficiently famous to be familiar to succeeding generation or regarded as sufficiently significant within their field	Proposer (but costed & installed by Urban Vision (public/ private partnership)	Not normally installed on hotels or public venues (e.g. concert hall) Once installed, ownership rests with owner of the building, who will also be responsible for maintenance

## **Feedback received from individual councils**

### **Salford Council**

*1. Who funds your scheme and how much does the average plaque cost including installation?*

Nominee (the scheme is only available to those wishing to fund it)

*2. What do you commemorate, and how many of each have you received nominations for and commemorated over the past year?*

People and events (buildings are only really commemorated in connection to a person) Consent for erection of plaques on buildings must be obtained by the nominee. There have been six applications with three approved since April 2016.

*3. Have you had any problems with the number of years you require to have elapsed before a commemorative plaque is erected?*

None to date

*4. Who assesses nominations?*

Specially established panel of officers and external representatives (We have representatives from the Council, Salford Community Leisure and external societies, such as the Salford local history society)

*5. Do you require nominees to submit evidence, and if so what do you require and in what format?*

Evidence of the person living in property/event taking place and evidence that person/event was significant. This is then checked by the panel before a decision is made.

### **Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council**

*1. Who funds your scheme and how much does the average plaque cost including installation?*

Scheme wholly funded by the Borough Council through an annual Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) budget of £35,000, to be used on conservation and heritage work. The plaques are cast aluminium and cost around £250 including installation.

*2. What do you commemorate, and how many of each have you received nominations for and commemorated over the past year?*

People: an academic or famous person recognised by their profession for outstanding achievement, a famous person who is known by the man on the street, a famous inventor/manufacturer, a less well known person but plaque awarded to raise their public profile. Although some flexibility is allowed, the nominee should have been born over 100 years ago or have died over 20 years ago. The proposed location of the plaque should be accessible or visible to the public. The connection of the location with the person must be substantiated by two independent sources.

There is some mild deviation from this criteria at times but it does form the basis of deciding if the nomination is appropriate or not. Our plaques so far have mostly related to people rather than events and buildings. The process is that a call for projects under the Environmental Improvement Programme is made once a year with any nominations for blue plaques verified and confirmed as the Programme for the upcoming financial year is reported to the relevant Council meetings/boards. Four plaques were installed last year, three of which were instigated through research from the Hinckley Museum. This is not the norm however, as there was a period of a few years ago where none were nominated. The frequency of nominations tend to relate to research or work undertaken by local civic societies etc.

*3. Have you had any problems with the number of years you require to have elapsed before a commemorative plaque is erected?*

The person commemorated should have been born over 100 years ago or have died over 20 years ago, although we have applied some flexibility, particularly if it has been the only nomination received that year. One nomination from a gentleman who starred in "Heartbeat" and who lives locally wanted a blue plaque on his house but he was advised he would not be eligible as he wasn't yet dead!

*4. Who assesses nominations?*

Initial assessment of nominations is made by two officers (conservation) and once included on the programme for the upcoming year confirmed by Councillors as part of the relevant Council meetings/boards. If there was a particularly controversial nomination it would be presented to these Councillors to make the final decision.

*5. Do you require nominees to submit evidence, and if so what do you require and in what format?*

Nominees are required to submit documentary evidence to confirm the appropriateness of nominations, normally as they are made by local civic societies or organisations with well documented records they can meet the criteria, but occasionally we have had to dismiss suggestions on lack of evidence or essentially rumour/hearsay/folklore.

*6. Additional information*

Also incorporate an unveiling of a plaque with an event to celebrate the person and provide a greater understanding of their achievements, so there has been added value in the scheme.