

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 18 AUGUST 2025

REPORT ON: DUNDEE'S COVID MEMORIAL – REMEMBERING TOGETHER

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND CULTURE DUNDEE

REPORT NO: 185-2025

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates elected members on the actions taken to co-create Dundee's Community Covid Memorial as part of the National Remembering Together project. It provides an outline of the memorial design and proposed construction timeline and seeks approval of the proposed location of the memorial.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a. Notes the progress made on the creation of the co-design model by the Remembering Together Dundee Project Team led by Leisure & Culture Dundee's UNESCO City of Design Team;
 - b. Approves the construction of the Covid Memorial in the recommended location of the vacant land at Moncur Crescent/Caird Avenue as set out in section 7;
 - c. Delegates authority to Officers to implement the project;
 - d. Notes the potential to further develop the project when further funding is identified, as set out in paragraph 9.5

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed the agreement of these recommendations will result in one-off costs of £168,000 which is fully funded through the Scottish Government grant funding and external funding partners as outlined in paragraph 9.6.
- 3.2 The net revenue cost implications associated with this expenditure are expected to be £10,428 per annum and these will be funded from the Streetscene and Land Management division of the Neighbourhood Services Revenue Budget.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Remembering Together is a national project funded by Scottish Government and delivered by Greenspace Scotland to co-create covid memorials together with communities and creative practitioners in each Scottish local authority.
- 4.2 The purpose of this project was to work together with people from communities who were most impacted by the pandemic. This included people who experienced the death of a loved one, those who experienced poverty and those who experienced poor mental health as a result of pandemic restrictions.
- 4.3 Every project has been carried out in two phases, with the first phase of funding allocation of £15,000 for artists and creative practitioners to co-create with communities to create a vision of what the memorial could be. The second phase of funding of £100,000 is for the delivery and construction of the memorial.

- 4.4 The Remembering Together Advisory Group was established to oversee the project, with membership including representatives from UNESCO City of Design Team (Project Lead), Leisure & Culture Dundee, Greenspace, Funeral Link, V&A Dundee, Dundee City Council (Neighbourhood Services and City Development) and the Convenor for Climate, Environment and Biodiversity.

5 RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

- 5.1 Following a recruitment process, designers Vinishree Verma and Ana Guerrero of Around Zero, a social innovation and environment centre design firm, were appointed to lead phase one of the project.
- 5.2 Workshops and drop-in sessions were held across Dundee with participants supported by a professional counsellor to share their personal experiences of the pandemic. The events were promoted through sixty community-based organisations, with 122 people from Dundee participating.
- 5.3 Participants included those who had long covid and health complications, bereaved families and individuals who had lost loved ones during the pandemic, young, single mothers from areas of deprivation with children born during the pandemic, representatives from youth groups and the Dundee Veterans Group. The Women's Business Station held focus sessions for Black, Ethnic and Minority Groups and elderly women from Muslim communities.
- 5.4 Following a final multi-generational workshop where participants worked together to produce four concepts for the memorial, which were then analysed for viability by the project team, considering aspects of materials, scale, accessibility and maintenance. The concept which best met these aspects was then progressed to the next phase of the project as illustrated in Appendix 1.

6 MEMORIAL CONCEPT

- 6.1 The concept selected for the memorial takes the form of a labyrinth with a surrounding garden to reflect the unexpected twists and turns experienced during the pandemic. It builds on the notion of labyrinths to help reduce stress, aid mental health and build community, encouraging meditation, mindfulness and connection.
- 6.2 To best represent the views of those involved in the co-creation, the memorial is to be a free, open and outdoor space where people can reflect in tranquility. The artworks define a central space where people can gather, but which also provides enough privacy for reflection.
- 6.3 Participant feedback also highlighted the importance of the memorial being accessible by public transport and that it improves the biodiversity of the area, is located near to a play park and makes use of vacant land.

7 MEMORIAL LOCATION

- 7.1 A range of locations were considered by the Advisory Group, including bowling greens, Slessor Gardens, vacant land in Lochee and Coldside, and existing parks including Hilltown Park. Following assessment of these locations, the site at Moncur Crescent/Caird Avenue was identified as best meeting the requirements of the memorial concept.
- 7.2 The vacant land at this location, formerly the site of Coldside Nursery, meets the priorities highlighted during the co-creation. It is accessible through several bus routes and is located near a play park, therefore integrated with existing community spaces. The land is overlooked

by residential properties and is of a size which can encompass the memorial whilst maintaining open green space.

8 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

- 8.1 Following identification of both the memorial concept and the proposed location, a series of community engagement activities led by Around Zero were held with specialist support from Old School Fabrications, to finalise the design. 8000 newsletters were distributed throughout the city to raise awareness of the project and highlight how people could participate.
- 8.2 A community steering group was established with representatives from across local communities, including young people living in areas of multiple deprivation, young families from the Coldsides area, students living and studying in the city, ethnic minority women, elderly people who had experienced isolation, and individuals who had lost loved ones during the pandemic.
- 8.3 Drop-in design workshops were delivered in partnership with Community Learning and Development teams, in locations across the city, involving young people, young single mothers, and nursery school children.
- 8.4 Details of the design and location of the memorial were presented at a range of meetings across the city, including those held by the City Centre & Harbour Community Council, Coldsides Community Forum AGM, Bee Productions Life After Loss Bereavement Group, Coldsides Local Community Planning Partnership Environmental Subgroup, Broughty Ferry Local Community Planning Partnership, West End Local Community Planning Partnership, Coldsides Councillors.

9 FINAL MEMORIAL DESIGN

- 9.1 The design for the Covid Memorial, illustrated in Appendix 1, includes an accessible footpath and diverse, climate resilient perennial planting to create the labyrinth shape. Seating is included throughout the garden. The footpath connects to the existing footpath from Caird Avenue; however, the labyrinth is accessible from any direction, due to the flat outer edging to the path.
- 9.2 Information panels enhance the visitor's experience of the memorial. They include techniques for reflection and prompts to encourage the connection with nature, reflecting the crucial role that nature played in supporting mental wellbeing during lockdowns.
- 9.3 The project team has carefully considered the memorial's design to ensure that there are no enclosed areas which could encourage anti-social behaviour. All materials are robust and sectional to make repair as easy as possible.
- 9.4 The proposed memorial materials of Corten steel, CEDEC compacted gravel, timber and perennial planting, have all been considered with longevity, minimal maintenance and sustainability in mind.
- 9.5 The designs include the option to further develop the memorial through the installation of metal 'fins', which are a series of flowing gradient curves featuring laser cutouts of bird silhouettes. This imagery tells the story of loss, reflection and how crucial nature was for mental wellbeing during the pandemic. This element requires additional funding.
- 9.6 The implementation cost of the project is £168,000 which is fully funded through the Scottish Government grant funding and external funding partners as follows:
 - £100,000 Greenspace Scotland Project Grant
 - £32,700 Coldsides Community Regeneration Fund

- £25,000 Nature Restoration Fund
- £5,000 Leng Trust
- £5,000 Alexander Moncur Trust
- £300 Dundee Changemakers Hub

10 INSTALLATION TIMEFRAME

- 10.1 It is anticipated that the groundwork will start late summer 2025 for a 4–6-week period, including the establishment of paths, planting beds, information panels and benches. The planting will commence in autumn for establishment in summer 2026.
- 10.2 The memorial will include the foundations for future installation of the artwork 'fins' once additional funding of £68,000 is sourced.

11 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of/mitigating factors for them is included as Appendices to this report.

12 CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13.1 None.

Judy Dobbie
Director, Leisure & Culture Dundee

July 2025

Appendix 1

Share your Covid Stories Dundee

Experiences Actions Memories Learnings

The workshops echoed the lived experiences of the people of Dundee, also their turmoil and resilience during the pandemic. It helped them to come together and talk about it - it felt like healing and reviving their spirit.

We worked closely with community groups in Dundee, especially those who were underrepresented and excluded, to collectively engage in the act of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing.



Insights Gathered

- Individual Emotional State** Emotional well-being was closely tied to **relationships and the effects of interactions**. The **privilege of space for oneself** was evident. Those in **difficult or vulnerable situations** (like single mothers, those in abusive relationships, or grieving families) faced heightened challenges due to isolation.
- Collective Emotional State** **Renewed sense of community** emerged, with people eager to connect. Minority communities faced **segregation and challenging social interactions**. Most people were exacerbated by **unclear government communication**, leading to **widespread uncertainty**.
- Activities** **Technology** was vital for staying productive, entertained, and connected, with **online activities** popular across all ages. Many invested in **home improvements** to enhance personal space. Some focused on **new or existing hobbies and well-being**.
- Learnings & Future** The pandemic is remembered as a time of **significant transformation**, at home, neighbourhoods and globally. Some experienced **profound life changes**, while others faced difficult times they wish to leave behind. The pandemic brought radical change, emphasizing the value of **relationships, empathy, and work-life balance**.



Co-Realise Workshops Phase1



I will visit the Covid Memorial to...

- ...express gratitude, to experience peacefulness, hope, joy
- ...remember people who suffered or lost their lives
- ...feel positive, remember lifestyle changes
- ...remind the value of family, friends, health, and wellbeing
- ...connect with the environment, outdoors

The concepts generated in the 'co-realise workshops' were synthesised to define - **Who is visiting? Why will people visit? What is this 'space'? What will they find there?**

In this phase of co-design, we were exploring themes like what is **symbolic of covid**. We also discussed memorials around the globe, **their identity and history**.

During the workshops, participants visualised **physical or tangible elements** of Dundee's new covid memorial.

Design Covid Memorial Dundee

**Design
Symbolism
Identity
History
Participation**



**Co-Design
Workshops
Phase1**

Concepts for Covid Memorial Dundee

Co-create workshops brought together everyone previously engaged in Phase 1. This allowed for a **multi-generational groups** to form; each person was representing the trauma and lived experiences of Dundee during the pandemic and participated as **co-creators to develop a shared vision of the memorial**.

During a day long workshop, each group **generated ideas, and created personas and storyboards to present their concepts**. They also suggested location, budget, materials and how the people of Dundee will interact and connect with the memorial.

Context
Who, why & what?
Space
Interactions
Storytelling



**Co-Create
Workshops
Phase1**



Finalised Concept Dundee Phase 2

Colourful Sensory Tactile

Main Concept

Journey depicting the Covid experience - Going into the lockdown/pandemic and coming out of it. Labyrinth symbolises this unknown/uncertain path of covid.

Features

- Outdoor space - reconnecting with nature and play
- Take people through the covid experience - of isolation and then importance of reconnection with others
- Remind people of what they went through and prompt conversation to socialize, interact, and share their own stories; This could be achieved by depicting familiar symbols/things/words from the Covid lockdown
- Space for people to feel included - a space for everyone; Offers spaces for diverse audiences
- Space for people to reflect while taking that journey
- Use of colours to evoke the emotions of loneliness, loss, gratitude, joy, hope

A labyrinth of Covid journey

Journey - The emotional journey (twists & turns) that everyone experienced through space and time. These include both positive and negative experience

Experiences - Adaptations to ways of living during the pandemic - both physical or psychological changes. Connection with of family, community, health and well being.

Memories - Each of us suffered in different ways. A space for oneself to remember those sufferings, to have the closure and to move towards new beginnings.



Design in progress Dundee Phase 2

Proposed Design

Dundee's covid memorial will take the form of a permanent labyrinth and garden which has come from the group's ambition of representing the unexpected twists and turns experienced during the pandemic.

Labyrinths are known to reduce stress, aid mental health and community building. They can encourage meditation, mindfulness, and connection.

The co-created memorial has been imagined by communities to provide a free, open outdoor green space that people can go to and reflect on the personal experiences and loved ones lost throughout the pandemic. Their intentions are for the memorial to encourage residents to take time out of their day to get fresh air, connect with nature, as well as connecting with other visitors at the memorial.

The proposed materials including corten steel, CEDEC compacted gravel, timber and perennial planting, have all been considered with **longevity, low maintenance and sustainability** in mind.

A central seating area and hearth has been designed from exploring **how people will move** through the memorial and the **different viewpoints** they can experience.

Lead designer, Dan used a **biophilic design process** to develop the memorial, which is traditionally used as a tool for **encouraging therapeutic processes and connection with nature**.





Dundee

Remembering Together Covid Community Memorial

UNESCO City of Design Dundee were asked to lead the project on behalf of Dundee City using their experience of co-design processes.

Kirsten Wallace

Project Coordinator, UNESCO City of Design Dundee is Remembering Together's Project Lead for Dundee. She has chaired a monthly project Advisory Group since Spring 2022.

Phase 1

Vinishree Verma & Ana Guerrero, Around Zero
Lead Artist & Designers

Phase 2

Vinishree Verma, Around Zero
Leading community engagement
&
Dan Kingstom, Old School Fabrication
Lead Designer



Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 185-2025

Document Title: Dundee's Covid Memorial - Remembering Together

Document Type: Other

Description:

This report updates elected members on the actions taken to co-create Dundee's Community Covid Memorial as part of the National Remembering Together project. It provides an outline of the memorial design and proposed construction timeline and seeks approval of the proposed location of the memorial.

Intended Outcome:

That the Committee:

Notes the progress made on the creation of the co-design model by the Remembering Together Dundee Project Team led by Leisure & Culture Dundee's UNESCO City of Design Team;

Approves the construction of the Covid Memorial in the recommended location of the vacant land at Moncur Crescent/Caird Avenue as set out in section 7;

Delegates authority to Officers to implement the project;

Notes the potential to further develop the project when further funding is identified, as set out in paragraph 9.5

Period Covered: 21/05/2025 to 31/03/2026

Monitoring:

The project will be managed by Dundee City Council's Design and Property Services Department who will ensure appropriate monitoring is in place. The project has a clear framework and steps to completion.

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: No Impact

Disability: Positive

The garden has been specifically designed to be fully accessible, with wide paths and no steps.

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	Positive
Lochee:	Positive
Coldside:	Positive
Maryfield:	Positive
North East:	Positive
East End:	Positive
The Ferry:	Positive
West End:	Positive

Positive Implications: The community engagement progress engaged with people across the city to inform the final design. Its location in the Coldside area is accessible by public transport and is community centred for Dundee residents across the city.

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Carers: No Impact

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: No Impact

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact

Affordability and accessibility of services: No Impact

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation No Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: Positive

This garden creates a new accessible green space which will incorporate a lasting legacy of the pandemic experience, with information on grounding techniques for mental wellbeing and also on the importance of improving biodiversity.

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: Positive

The feedback from local communities was clear that the memorial should be a calming environment which would have a positive impact on mental health. The design incorporates sensory elements through smell and touch, and the path creates a labyrinth experience which is known to reduce stress.

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Positive

The preferred site is on vacant land, this project is a positive use of space within an area of SIMD, and will contribute to the positive perception of the neighbourhood.

Transport: No Impact

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: Positive

The planting scheme is designed to be climate resilient so the plants are tolerant to changing environmental conditions.

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: Positive

All the soil has been sourced from Discovery Compost, which is derived from household green waste.

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: Positive

The planning scheme has been specifically designed to improve local biodiversity.

Open & green spaces: Positive

The project turns a piece of vacant ground into fully accessible green space.

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic
Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the
Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: No Impact

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: No Impact

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.