

## **Operation London Bridge and the death of a Royal member**

**Operation London Bridge** is the plan for what will happen in the United Kingdom after the death of Queen [Elizabeth II](#). The plan was originally devised in the 1960s and is updated several times each year. It involves planning from government departments, the Church of England, Metropolitan Police Service, the British Armed Forces, the media, the Royal Parks, London boroughs, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London. Some critical decisions relating to the plan were made by the Queen herself, although some can only be made by her successor (the current heir apparent is her son, Charles, Prince of Wales), after her death.

As of early 2017, the phrase "London Bridge is down" was expected to be used to communicate the death of the Queen to the prime minister of the United Kingdom and key personnel, setting the plan into motion.

The codename Operation London Bridge primarily refers to events that would take place in the United Kingdom. In addition to the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth realms where Elizabeth II acts as monarch have developed their own plans for what will happen in the days after her death. These corresponding plans would run concurrently with Operation London Bridge.

This protocol sets out the action to be taken in the event of the death of the sovereign, (codename Operation London Bridge) consort of the sovereign, heir apparent.

### **1. Plans to mark a Royal death.**

These should only be implemented only when a formal announcement has been made (via the Press Association, BBC and placing of a notice to the gates of Buckingham Palace).

The State Funeral would be held at Westminster Abbey nine days after the Queen's death, after which her body would be buried in a prepared tomb at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The timetable for national mourning is expected to be:

D Day	Day of Death
D+1*	Proclamation Day (London)
D+2*	Proclamation Day
D+X	Middle Sunday Civic Service
D+4-6 to D9	Lying in State
D+10	Date of Funeral

(\* applies to death of the sovereign only)

## **2. Implementation of the Protocol on hearing of the death**

The Clerk will be the lead for this protocol in the event of the Queen's death, in liaison with Waverley Community Council (WCC). The following actions will be undertaken to mark the occasion:

- 2.1 A black homepage, featuring a photo of the deceased, their birth and death years and links to the main website and information on local tributes will be added to the Community Council website until 8am D+11. A message from the Chair on behalf of the WCC will be published.
- 2.2 A Book of Condolence will be appropriate for WCC as and when it has a physical office.
- 2.3 A letter on behalf of WCC shall be sent to the Private Secretary by the Chairperson which will be sent to the Royal Archives.

## **3. Events during the period of mourning**

All council events should be reviewed as to their appropriateness at a time of national mourning.

- 3.1 The official period of mourning will dictate whether meetings can be held. For the convening of meeting and any timescales which end in the mourning period, they should be postponed until the first day after the mourning period in accordance with section 243 of the Local Government Act 1972.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.2 Dress Code – Councillors will be encouraged to dress soberly on official business.

## **4. Laying of flowers or charity donations**

- 4.1 Notify via webpage location for flowers to be laid (such as the Garden off Lescar Road).
- 4.2 If donation in lieu are being taken – advise on charity for donations available from Buckingham Palace website.
- 4.3 The Clerk on behalf of the WCC will arrange flowers or a donation, as appropriate, for no more than £50.

## **5. Flag flying**

- 5.1 The WCC does not have a flag pole and flag.

This policy will be presented to the September 2021 meeting

**Rachel Graham**  
Clerk to the Council  
24.08.2021

**Date of Creation:** *August 2021*

**Date of review:** *May 2022*

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<sup>1</sup> These days should be excluded for calculation of time for 'clear days' in the convening of meetings