



COUNCIL:
15 December 2021 (withdrawn)
27 January 2022

Report of: Chief Operating Officer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran

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SUBJECT: DUKE OF LANCASTER REGIMENT - FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH AND FREEDOM OF ENTRY

Wards affected: Borough wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider proposals for freedom of entry to the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment following the granting of Freedom of the Borough in 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That it be noted that on the 25 May 2022 the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment will be marching through the streets of Ormskirk, West Lancashire with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying.

2.2 That the Chief Operating Officer be authorised to make all necessary arrangements for the event being held on 25 May 2022 and the sum of up to £12,000 be identified from Reserves and balances to meet costs associated with the event.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour that the Council can bestow on any citizen or body. Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to confer the Freedom upon service units which have rendered eminent/conspicuous service and have close links with the Borough.

3.2 The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment was granted Freedom of the Borough at a special meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2010 with the formal parade taking place on 22 October 2011.

- 3.3 The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (Kings, Lancashire and Border) formed in 2006 following a merger of The King's Own Border Regiment, The King's Regiment and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, together with their respective companies of the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers and The King's and Cheshire Regiment. Through its predecessors the Regiment has a long and distinguished history dating originally back to The King's Own Regiment raised by King Charles II in 1680. In more recent times, the Regiment has distinguished itself seeing active service in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 3.4 The Freedom of Entry has its roots deep within the history of local government and is an example of the power and influence of the old Boroughs in the past. During the Middle Ages formed bodies of troops were not to allowed to march bearing arms through a town without the permission of the predecessors of what we know as Councils today. Nowadays, the Freedom of the Borough is an entirely ceremonial honour and confers upon individual regiments the right to march with due ceremony, 'drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed' in recognition of the confidence, trust and friendship existing between citizens and troops.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Regiment have approached the Council to ask if they can march through Ormskirk Town Centre on 25 May 2022. This ceremonial parade, organised by the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and West Lancashire Borough Council and supported by Lancashire Police, will see the Regiment exercising their right to march through the streets.
- 4.2 Following approval of the funding, arrangements will be made with the Regiment to parade in Ormskirk Town Centre, this would consist of the Regiment marching with 'drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed'. The Mayor will present a gift on behalf of the Council and the citizens of the Borough. A buffet meal will then be held for the Regiment and invited guests.
- 4.3 All citizens of the Borough will be encouraged to line the streets to watch the parade, as many of the soldiers chosen to take part will have direct West Lancashire connections.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The granting of the Freedom of the Borough intended to build sustainable links between the citizens of West Lancashire and the Regiment, supporting this event will back this aim.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be some financial and resource implications. These include: the purchasing of a gift, road closures and the hosting of a buffet for the Regiment and invited guests. An estimated cost of less than £12,000 is expected.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 There is obviously some risk in organising any public event involving military personnel and we will be working closely with the Police to risk assess the event and any necessary changes will be made in the relevant risk registers.

8.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

None