

CABINET – 13 FEBRUARY 2008

ARMY CADET FORCE OF HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT – PROPOSED BOND OF FRIENDSHIP

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Contact Officer: Chris Ashcroft Tel: 01962 848 284 e-mail [cashcroft@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:cashcroft@winchester.gov.uk)

RECENT REFERENCES:

None.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1. Under the Local Government Act 1972, Local Authorities are permitted to retain the right to make honorary appointments, particularly where this had been a former tradition. For Winchester, this includes conferring upon individuals the status of Freeman, or granting the right of Freedom of Entry to regiments or branches of the Armed Forces with close associations with the City.
2. The Council has not adopted specific criteria in the past, apart from the person or organisation having to fulfil the broad statutory qualification of being "persons of distinction or persons who have rendered eminent services to the City".
3. A request has been received from the Lord Lieutenant, for some form of honorary recognition to be accorded to the Army Cadet Force of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (ACF). The Force is due to receive its new County banner (colours) during 2008 and it has been suggested that this could form the centrepiece to a parade through the County town, which would not only highlight the role of the ACF, but also demonstrate civic appreciation of its work.
4. The Freedoms offered to individuals or the Armed Forces are not appropriate in this case. However, it would be possible to award a 'Bond of Friendship' from the City Council, in the form of a scroll, which would commemorate the event and recognise the important role undertaken by the ACF.
5. For Members information, the Hampshire ACF is the third largest Cadet Force in the country with around 1400 cadets, divided into six Companies, plus a band and corps of drums. They represent a wide cross-section of the community, with some cadets coming from deprived and challenging backgrounds. There are also 276 officers and instructors.

6. There are strong local links with The Rifles (cadet base at King's School) and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (cadet base at Newburgh House). The band/corps of drums is based at the Adjutant General's Corps at Worthy Down. About 25% of cadets choose to enter the armed services as their career.

7. If Cabinet is minded to support the award, the matter would appear as a formal item on the agenda for Council on 21 February 2008.

8. If agreed by Council, the provisional date for the parade is Saturday 5 April 2008 (commencing around midday) and it would probably follow the usual route from Peninsula Barracks, through the town centre, arriving in the Broadway for the ceremony and Mayoral inspection, to be followed by a reception in the Guildhall. Between 300 – 400 cadets would be involved in the parade and it would be the first of a number of high profile events, culminating in a nationwide celebration of 150 years of the Army Cadet Force in 2010 (there has been an ACF in Winchester since 1895).

RECOMMENDATION (to Council):

That a Bond of Friendship be awarded to the Army Cadet Force for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, in recognition of its very important role in the community and that, to commemorate the event, a parade be held on Saturday 5 April 2008.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

An Efficient and Effective Council

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The total cost of the parade, scroll and reception is estimated at £3,400, which can be met from the 2008/09 budget.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None