

 Council 26 June 2013		Agenda Item No. 3
Title	The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	
For further information about this report please contact	Richard Davies; email richard.davies@warwickdc.gov.uk or telephone 01926 777107	
Wards of the District directly affected	None	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number		
Background Papers		

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		
Head of Service		
CMT	17/6/2013	
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance	17/6/2013	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Councillors Michael Doody, John Barrott, Bill Gifford and Bertie MacKay have all been consulted as have the Executive.		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council is asked to confer the Freedom of the District to The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at an appropriate ceremonial event and homecoming parade in Royal Leamington Spa on 26 November on the 1st Battalions return from Operation Herrick XV111 in Afghanistan.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Council of Warwick District, being deeply sensible of the distinguished record and glorious tradition of those representing The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, over many years of loyal service to Sovereign and Country, and being desirous of reaffirming the respect and friendship of the Council and sincerely wishing for this association to be fostered and strengthened, do confer upon, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Freedom of Entry into the District and the right in perpetuity on all ceremonial occasions, of honouring the District by exercising the privilege by marching through the District with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.
- 2.2 That three Illuminated Minutes under the Common Seal of the Council be presented for display at the Town Hall and by The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, at their barracks and the Tower of London as a symbolic gesture of the value of the affiliation.
- 2.3 The Freedom of the District be presented to Colonel Peter Merriman on behalf of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on 26 November 2013.
- 2.4 In order for the citizens of the city to feel engaged and witness the privilege that has been granted, that officers arrange a ceremonial Freedom Parade and reception on 26 November, in consultation with the Chairman.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 This Freedom being conferred is intended as an enhancement to the Welcome Home Parade to mark the 1st Battalion's return from deployment. Their current deployment, in Operation Herrick XV111, which is ongoing in Afghanistan but it is anticipated this will end in October 2013. It also considers the Regiment's recent engagements in respect of The Gulf War, Wadi Al-Batin 1991, at Al Basrah in Iraq 2003 and lastly in Afghanistan. There is a strong tie and association that lies in respect of the "golden thread" (as defined by the Army) between the Regiment and Warwickshire which has existed since 1782 which links the Fusiliers to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment which is a significant a part of our Area's proud history of service to the Crown and Country.
- 3.2 The Royal Warwickshire Regiment were amalgamated into the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Therefore the conferring of the Freedom of the District was a way and means of preserving the historical continuity. In addition by conferring this distinction as a District we could spare the four towns of the District and any other part the individual expense and neatly encapsulate the Regiment into ongoing local history.
- 3.3 As Chairman I recognise there is no precedent for this within this District Council but I see this as an opportunity to make history for the Council. This will create an ongoing precedent allowing the District Council to grant individual or group freedom to people or organisations who have distinguished themselves by acts of bravery or by outstanding public service.

3.4 If the Council is to support the Freedom of the District to The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers then it is important that this is recognised in an appropriate manner and it is for those reasons that recommendation 2.2 and 2.3 are proposed.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

4.1 **Policy Framework**–The report does not affect the Policy Framework of the Council.

4.2 **Fit for the Future** – While not directly contributing to Fit for Future the award of the Freedom is about recognising the Battalion on behalf of the community.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

5.1 The report does not impact upon the budgetary framework for the Council.

5.2 There are one-off financial implications arising from this report, predominantly the costs associated with the customary ceremonial occasion to mark the privilege. A report on these will be brought to the July Executive meeting for consideration if Council approves the recommendations in this report.

5.3 However it should be noted that the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have agreed to contribute towards the reception event, the detail of which will be confirmed in July 2013.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

6.1 No alternative options have been considered as the recommendation is supported by all Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Council.

7. **BACKGROUND**

7.1 None.