



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
Cllr David Henderson, Leader of the Council and Garry Payne, Chief Executive	Council	21 March 2018	2

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment: Freedom of Entry to the Borough

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To enable arrangements to be made to grant Freedom of Entry to the Borough by The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Freedom of Entry to the Borough for the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That a special meeting of the Council be held at 6pm on Thursday 12 April 2018 (before the ordinary meeting taking place at 7pm on that day) to grant Freedom of Entry to the Borough to The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.
- 3.2 That arrangements be made to enable the Regimental Band to parade through Poulton-le-Fylde and to be inspected by the Mayor, prior to a buffet reception at the Civic Centre, on a date to be determined but expected to be in September 2018.

4. Background

- 4.1 The practice of granting "Freedom of Entry" to military units dates back to the middle ages, when "formed bodies of troops" were not allowed to march through a borough or city without first obtaining permission of the local council. At that time most boroughs were surrounded by a fortified wall so the 'city fathers' were in a position to refuse access.

- 4.2** Over time, the historic permission to allow locally based troops to enter a town or city “in column form” has developed around the country into the practice of conferring on individual Regiments the right “to march through the town or city with due ceremonial, drums beating, band playing, banner flying and bayonets fixed”, in recognition of the confidence, trust and friendship existing between the citizens and soldiers. Such permission is usually accompanied by the presentation by the Mayor of a sealed certificate, often at a formal parade and inspection of the troops followed by some form of reception.
- 4.3** The authority for councils to grant such honours was more formally established under the Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act 1885. That Act established the concept of the freedom of the borough as an honorary title granted to persons of distinction, but without any entitlements. Prior to the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, a freeman had been a citizen who could claim exemption from tolls and a share of the profits of the city or borough.
- 4.4** More recently Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables “*any District Council with the status of a city, borough or royal borough, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting convened for the purpose*” to grant Freedom of the Borough to “any persons who have rendered eminent services to the Borough”. Freedom of Entry rights are granted under this provision.
- 4.5** During 2018, events are taking place across the borough to commemorate the end of the First World War, 100 years ago, and it would be appropriate during this significant anniversary to grant Freedom of Entry rights to the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** It is intended that the following motion be proposed, second and voted on at a special meeting of the Council:

“That in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of, and debt of gratitude to The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment and resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on The Duke Of Lancaster’s Regiment and its successors for all time and that it be granted the right, privilege and honour of marching through the streets of Wyre Borough on ceremonial occasions with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying.”

- 5.2** If the above motion is approved by the required two thirds majority of those voting, the Mayor will present a scroll granting freedom of entry to the Colonel of the Regiment at a special meeting to be held at 6pm, prior to the Council meeting, on 12 April 2018. The Regiment will then exercise their Freedom of Entry to the Borough by parading through the streets of Poulton-le-Fylde on a date to be arranged. The Mayor will be invited by the Parade Commander to inspect the parade. Following the parade a buffet reception for the Regiment and invited guests (approx. 150 to 200 people) will be held at the Civic Centre.
- 5.3** The cost of the two events, the presentation at the special meeting and the ceremonial parade, are expected to cost in the region of £10,000 based on similar events held at other Lancashire authorities. The full cost has not been budgeted for and the majority will therefore need to be met from general balances.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	It is anticipated that the first £1,000 cost arising from the granting of the Freedom of Entry will be met from the Special Events Civic and Ceremonial budget in 2018/19. The remainder, estimated at £9,000, has not been budgeted for and will therefore be met from general balances. Any minor costs for the purchase of the ceremonial scroll will be met from underspends in 2017/18.
Legal	The proposed appointments are in accordance with legal requirements, which are set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None	-	-

LIST OF APPENDICES

None.

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