

REPORT OF THE LEADER

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME CENTENARY COMMEMORATION EVENT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the provision of hospitality at a civic event to be held at County Hall on 1st July 2016, to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

Information and Advice

2. The Battle of the Somme was one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War. It began on 1 July 1916 and did not end until 18 November that year, resulting in over a million casualties in total. The aim of the offensive was to achieve a clear victory for the British and French allies but the campaign turned into a stalemate, with soldiers struggling to gain any ground after heavy rains in October. It is understood that almost every family in the country has links to the devastating losses of this historic Battle.
3. A national programme of commemorations is being led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Royal British Legion.
4. The proposed event at County Hall will consist of two distinct parts:-
 - a. A commemoration service to be held outside of the Main Reception at County Hall from 10.50 am – 11.10 am
 - b. An exhibition and film show to be held in the Assembly Hall at County Hall for invited guests from 11.20 am – 1.00 pm.
5. This event will be an opportunity not only to pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much but also to ensure that their legacy lives on for future generations.
6. The proposed guest list includes all County Councillors and Chief Officers, the Lord Lieutenant, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable, the Chief Fire Officer and relevant officers from the Armed Forces, Royal British Legion, the East Midlands Reserve Force, the Cadet Association and the Veterans Information Network Nottinghamshire.

7. It is proposed that teas and coffees and a finger buffet (in light of the timing of the event) will be provided for guests.

Other Options Considered

8. Different options for the event were considered but the proposed two part event is felt to be the most appropriate.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. To authorise approval for expenditure from the County Hospitality budget.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The estimated maximum costs of providing hospitality at the event for up to 150 guests is £975.00, based on an individual cost of £6.50 per head. The exact numbers of attendees will be clarified closer to the event but will not exceed 150.
12. These costs can be met from the Corporate Hospitality budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That approval be given for the provision of hospitality at the Battle of the Somme Commemoration Event at County Hall on 1st July 2016 up to a maximum cost of £975.00, to be met from the Corporate Hospitality budget.

Councillor Alan Rhodes
Leader of the County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB – 07/04/2016)

13. The Committee has responsibility for authorising hospitality offered by the County Council. The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SES – 13/04/2016)

14. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All