



meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Date **30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

agenda item number **6(g)**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE MANAGER, MEMBER SUPPORT**

**JOINT COUNTY AND CITY RECEPTION FOR THE TROOPS RETURNING FROM AFGHANISTAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION OF THE MERCIANS (FORMERLY THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHERWOOD FORESTERS REGIMENT)**

**Purpose**

1. This report seeks approval for the provision of a joint buffet reception with the City Council in the Council House, Old Market Square for the troops returning from Afghanistan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Mercians on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2009, the Reception to be hosted by the Chairman of the County Council and Lord Mayor of Nottingham.

**Background**

2. A request has been received from the City Council asking if the County Council would consider holding a joint reception to welcome back the troops from Afghanistan. Welcome back parades are being held in Worcester on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and in Derby on 4<sup>th</sup> December and Nottingham on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

In 2007 Nottingham City Council gave the Regiment the Freedom of the City and the County Council held a joint reception with the City on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in the Council House to commemorate the event.

3. The format proposed this year is a Service at St. Mary's Church in Nottingham (giving thanks for the safe return of the troops), followed by a Parade and March Past, returning to the Council House for a reception hosted by the Chairman of the County Council and Lord Mayor of Nottingham. The Lord Mayor will welcome everyone to the Council House and the Chairman of the County Council will say a few words on behalf of the County Council.

It is anticipated that approximately 400 guests will be invited to this reception (comprising returning soldiers/officers and family members) and 25 representatives from the County Council and 25 representatives from the City Council.

The initial costings from Nottingham City Council were based on proposals to provide a full buffet and refreshments for 400 guests at £10.50 per head (£4,200.00). However, Nottingham Forest Football Club has also kindly offered

free tickets and hospitality to the soldiers/ officers and family members for their home match on the same day. As this match kicks off at 1.00 pm there will not be time available to provide a full buffet Reception at the Council House and therefore costings for alternative approaches, such as providing refreshments and hot bacon cobs etc., are being finalised with the City. These revised costings will be verbally reported to the meeting of Administration Committee.

### **Recommendation**

4. That approval be given to the provision of hospitality in the Council House for approximately 400 guests, at a maximum cost of £4,200.00 (costs to be finalised at the meeting), with the costs to be divided equally between the County Council and City Council (the County's costs to be met from the County Hospitality Budget).

**David Ellis**  
**Service Manager, Member Support**

### **Legal Services' Comments (KK 31/07/09)**

The Administration Committee has delegated authority to authorise hospitality to be offered by the County Council. The proposal in this report is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

### **Comments of the Service Director (Finance)**

The financial implications are outlined in the report. (MB 05/08/09)

### **Background Papers**

Letter and costings from Nottingham City Council