

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO  
COUNCIL**

**DATE 8 JULY 2009**

**REPORT OF  
DIRECTOR OF LAW  
AND DEMOCRACY**

**PROPOSAL TO CONFER THE HONOUR OF THE FREEDOM OF THE  
BOROUGH TO THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT**

**SUMMARY**

To propose the offer to bestow the Freedom of the Borough to the Yorkshire Regiment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:-

1. The Yorkshire Regiment be offered the Freedom of Stockton on Tees
2. Their name be placed on the Roll of Honorary Freeman of the Borough.
3. The Yorkshire Regiment are presented with a sealed and illuminated copy of the Resolution at an appropriate occasion.
4. The Yorkshire Regiment be requested to exercise the Freedom of the Town at an opportune date during their Regimental programme for 2009/10, with the suggestion that the Freedom is linked to an existing appropriate event if possible, for example Remembrance Sunday.

**BACKGROUND**

1. The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Paul Kirton has requested that the Yorkshire Regiment are offered the Freedom of the Town, under the terms of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. The Rifles recruit north of the River Tees and the Yorkshire Regiment recruit south of the River Tees (areas of Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick and Yarm).

3. Council confirmed at a special meeting on 21 January 2009 that the Freedom of the Borough of Stockton be conferred upon The Rifles following the merger of the Light Infantry, the Devon and Dorset Light Infantry, the Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry and the Royal Green Jackets.

## **DETAIL**

4. The Yorkshire Regiment (14th/15th, 19th and 33rd/76th) is the descendent of these famous Yorkshire Infantry Regiments:
  - The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire (14th/15th Foot)
  - The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) (19th Foot)
  - The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) (33rd/76th Foot)
  - The East and West Riding Regiment.
5. The Yorkshire Regiment is one of the large infantry regiments of the British Army. The Regiment is the only line infantry or rifles unit to represent a single geographical county in the new infantry structure, serving as the county Regiment of Yorkshire covering the historical areas of: the East Riding of Yorkshire, North Riding of Yorkshire, West Riding of Yorkshire, East Yorkshire and the current county areas of: North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, and South Yorkshire. Though the districts to the east of Barnsley are part of the recruiting area of The Rifles any person who expresses a wish to serve in the Yorkshire Regiment can do so.
6. The decision now needs to be made as to whether or not the offer is made to bestow the Freedom of the Town to the Yorkshire Regiment.
7. The initiative to offer the award must come from the Civic Authority and would normally be offered to a Regiment or Corps who had a long standing relationship, marked either by time, or by some historic link with the City, Royal Borough or Borough.
8. An initial response from the Regimental Secretary of the Yorkshire Regiment informed that any such offer would need to be put before the Regimental Board. However, he has already consulted the Regimental Board on this issue and is able to report that the Yorkshire Regiment would be delighted to accept the Freedom of the Borough of Stockton, were they to be offered it.
9. Should it be agreed that the Freedom of the Borough of Stockton be conferred upon the Yorkshire Regiment, then consideration needs to be given as to whether they are requested to exercise the Freedom of the Town at an opportune date. It could be suggested to them that the

Freedom is linked to an existing appropriate event if possible, for example Remembrance Sunday.

10. Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, allows the Council of a district having the status of a city, borough or royal borough, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, to admit to be honorary freeman of the city, borough or royal borough persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the city, borough or royal borough.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. The initiative to offer the award must come from the Civic Authority.
12. The Council will be required to comply with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in offering Freedom of the Borough.
13. The costs of adding the name of The Yorkshire Regiment to the Roll of Honorary Freeman of the Borough is approximately £100. A sealed and illuminated copy of the Resolution is in the form of a scroll. Scroll prices vary from £500 for a plain type up to £1,000 for a more detailed type. Costs are to be met from the existing Civic budget for Law and Democracy.
14. The costs arising from the Yorkshire Regiment exercising the Freedom of the Town will also be met from the existing Civic budget for Law and Democracy.

## **CONSULTATION**

15. Consultation will be undertaken with CMT, and Council.

### **Head of Democratic Services**

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