
REPORT TO:	EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 3
DATE OF MEETING:	11TH NOVEMBER 2010	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ANDREA McCASKIE HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (EXT: 5831) e-mail: andrea.mccaskie@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC: U:\JAYNE\ Commtee\COMMREP\ Mercian Regiment.doc
SUBJECT:	FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE – THE MERCIAN REGIMENT	REF: AGM/JB
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, Members of the Mercian Regiment be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the District of South Derbyshire, in recognition of their distinguished service to Her Majesty's Forces.
- 1.2 That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the certificate to be presented to the Regiment on its admission as Honorary Freemen of the District of South Derbyshire.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To confer the title of Honorary Freeman to members of the Mercian Regiment.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 gives Councils the power to bestow the honour of Honorary Freeman and to grant "freedom of entry to the District" to persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area. This practice provides a dignified and satisfactory means of enabling the district to honour a distinguished unit of Her Majesty's Forces, the Mercian Regiment, which is a military unit closely associated with the community of South Derbyshire.
- 3.2 To this end, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council must be convened to specifically consider this matter, with two thirds of those present voting in favour of granting the Mercian Regiment freedom of entry into the District "to march through the streets of the District with colours flying, band playing and bayonets fixed".

3.3 The Mercian Regiment will approach the Council about a freedom march which will take place at a date in the future, with a parade through Swadlincote which will be followed by a reception for local soldiers and their families at the Civic Offices.

3.4 All the Borough and District Authorities in the county, along with Derby City Council, have granted, or are in the process of granting the aforementioned "Freedom of Entry" to the Mercian Regiment.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The costs of the reception and also the presentation certificate can be met from current civic budgets.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Granting the freedom of the district should only be given in exceptional cases in order to maintain its kudos and standing. Once conferred, the freedom itself carries no privileges and is purely an honour to recognise the significance and valuable services rendered to the district by that group.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The title of Honorary Freeman is the highest honour that a district can bestow, although it carries no privileges. However, those successful are able to use the title of Freeman and receive invitations to major civic events.

7.0 Background Papers

None