



CABINET - 5TH FEBRUARY 2014

SUBJECT: MEDAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY – ST. DAVID’S DAY 2014

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet for the proposed medal presentation ceremony for the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital, upon their return from Afghanistan.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In April, 2013, Caerphilly Local Service Board and Caerphilly County Borough Council approved the signing of a local Armed Forces Community Covenant with our Armed Forces community, represented by our Ministry of Defence designated military unit, the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital.
- 2.2 In June, 2013, Caerphilly Local Service Board, its partner organisations, including Caerphilly County Borough Council, together with representatives of the Armed Forces community and charities, duly signed the Caerphilly Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- 2.3 In October, 2013, the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital were deployed to Afghanistan. Upon return early in 2014, members of the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital will be presented with medals. In recognition of the close relationship that has developed between the Caerphilly County Borough Council, its partners and the 203, Colonel Tina Donnelly TD DL CCMi L/QARANC (Commander of the 203) has asked that consideration be given to the medal presentation ceremony taking place in Caerphilly county borough.
- 2.4 This report seeks approval for the ceremony and the subsequent arrangements.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Central Government introduced the National Armed Forces Covenant in 2011, outlining the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces Community. Welsh Government have subsequently produced a ‘Package of Support for the Armed Forces Community in Wales’, and has encouraged local authorities to sign a community covenant with the Armed Forces.
- 3.2 Caerphilly County Borough Council is a signatory to the Caerphilly Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- 3.3 The support for the medal presentation ceremony further demonstrates CCBC commitment to the Principles of the Covenant and its Armed Forces community.
- 3.4 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, in statutory powers paragraph.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 An Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant introduced nationally by Central Government in 2011, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces Community.
- 4.2 In addition, the Welsh Government have subsequently produced a 'Package of Support for the Armed Forces Community in Wales' and has encouraged local authorities to sign a community covenant with the Armed Forces. The aim of an Armed Forces Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the service community in their area, and develop an understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community, which includes both serving and former personnel (veterans), their families and cadet forces.
- 4.3 In April, 2013, Caerphilly Local Service Board and Caerphilly County Borough Council approved the signing of a local Armed Forces Community Covenant with our Armed Forces community, represented by our designated military unit, the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital.
- 4.4 In June, 2013, Caerphilly Local Service Board, its partner organisations, including Caerphilly County Borough Council, together with representatives of the Armed Forces community and service charities, duly signed the Caerphilly Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- 4.5 In May, 2013, the multi-agency Caerphilly Armed Forces Forum was established chaired by the CCBC Armed Forces Lead Officer and supported by the CCBC Armed Forces "Champion", Cllr. Alan Higgs.
- 4.6 In October, 2013, the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital were deployed to Afghanistan. Upon return early in 2014, members of the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital will be presented with medals.
- 4.7 In addition to 4.6 above, during 2014 there will also be commemoration events to mark the centenary of the commencement of World War One, which led to the establishment of the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital in 1914.
- 4.8 In recognition of the close relationship that has developed between the Caerphilly County Borough Council, its partners and the 203, Colonel Tina Donnelly TD DL CCMi L/QARANC (Commander of the 203) has asked that consideration be given to the medal presentation ceremony taking place in Caerphilly county borough.
- 4.9 The proposed arrangements for the medal presentation ceremony are as follows:
- a) Date: Saturday, 1st March, 2014 (St. David's Day).
 - b) Timings: Parade 'musters' at 11:50 pm; service and medal presentation ceremony at 12 noon; Lay wreath at War Memorial at approximately 12:50pm; Parade 'dismissal' at approximately 1pm.
 - c) Location: Risca town centre.
 - d) Route: Parade 'musters' in Danygraig Road and marches into Tredegar Street; service and medal presentation ceremony in-front of Tredegar Park; march to the nearby War Memorial and lay wreath; parade 'dismissal' at the War Memorial.
 - e) There will be approximately 100 soldiers from 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital (approximately 90 of whom are Reservists and 25 are from the county borough) and a military band on parade. Local Armed Forces cadets will also be invited to take part.
 - f) Obviously the number of medal recipients is yet to be determined.

- g) Family of the soldiers on parade will also be in attendance. Exact numbers are as yet unknown.
- h) The military have indicated that their guest list will include senior officers of the rank of Brigadier General and above. The CCBC guest list includes the Mayor, Lord Lieutenant, elected members, MP and AM's, members of the Local Service Board, etc.
- i) It is proposed that the reception take place locally for the soldiers from the 203, their families, military guests and other guests invited by CCBC.

4.10 Subject to approval from Cabinet, further meetings will take place between CCBC officers and the Adjutant from 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital to plan this important event in more detail.

4.11 Subsequent application to the CCBC Event Safety Advisory Group will also be made, which will facilitate further partnership planning and road closure issues.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 CCBC recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals, and will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce. This Council also works to create equal access for everyone to services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be justified.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Funding for this event has been identified within the 2013/14 Legal and Democratic Services budget.

6.2 Whilst it is difficult to give exact costs at this stage, every effort will be made to keep them to a minimum and it is not anticipated that they will exceed £7,500 to include road closure, catering, media and corporate communication costs, etc.

6.3 The 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital has offered to contribute up to £4k (to be confirmed) to the funding of this event.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All consultee responses have been considered within this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Cabinet are asked to confirm their approval of the proposed medal presentation ceremony and arrangements.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To further demonstrate Caerphilly County Borough Council's ongoing commitment and support for the aims of the Caerphilly Armed Forces Community Covenant. The proposed medal presentation ceremony will also encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces community and develop an understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community, including both serving and former personnel (veterans), their families and cadet forces.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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Cllr Alan Higgs (Armed Forces Champion, CCBC)

Cllr Phyllis Griffiths (Risca West)

Cllr Dave Rees (Risca West)

Cllr Rhiannon Passmore (Cabinet member and Risca East)

Cllr Philippa Leonard (Risca East)

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