Under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or a service unit of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough and this report sets out proposals for the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, the Army’s Infantry Regiment of the North West of England, to be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

Recommendation(s)

(1) In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of, and the debt of gratitude of the Borough to the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment and in the light of the long and honourable association between the Borough of Sefton and the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, the Council resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on the a Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment and that it be granted the right, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough on all ceremonial occasions with colours flying, bands playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be determined at Bootle Town Hall; and

(2) the Head of Regulation and Compliance be authorised to take all of the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a civic reception for the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment and invited quests to take place at the rising of the Extra-ordinary Council meeting in Bootle Town Hall.
How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corporate Objective</th>
<th>Positive Impact</th>
<th>Neutral Impact</th>
<th>Negative Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Creating a Learning Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Jobs and Prosperity</td>
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<td>3 Environmental Sustainability</td>
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<td>4 Health and Well-Being</td>
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<td>5 Children and Young People</td>
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<td>6 Creating Safe Communities</td>
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<td>7 Creating Inclusive Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To honour the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment for its eminent service to the people of Sefton and the North West of England.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The maximum cost of £2,000 associated with the award of the Freedom of the Borough will be met from the existing Mayoral Hospitality revenue budget.

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Equality

1. No Equality Implication
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

None

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted (FD4453/16) and notes there are no direct financial implications. Estimated costs can be met from the existing Mayoral Hospitality revenue budget.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 3736/16) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Email: steve.pearce@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection
1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or a service unit of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough and it is proposed that the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

1.2 The conferring of the Freedom of the Borough upon any individual or service unit is the highest honour the Council can bestow and when the Freedom of the Borough is granted to a service unit, they are given the right, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough on all ceremonial occasions with colours flying, bands playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

1.3 Past recipients of the Freedom of the Borough have been:

- 2004 - Donald “Ginger” McCain
- 2006 - James Carragher

The Freedom of the Borough (Freedom of Entry) has also been bestowed on the following Service Units:

- 1982 - No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, which was subsequently succeeded by No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 (North West) Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) in 2001
- 2011 - RAF Woodvale

The Council agreed on 17 November 2016 that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on HMS Mersey at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be determined at Bootle Town Hall.

2. Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment

2.1 The Regiment and its predecessors have a long and distinguished history dating originally back to the King’s Own Regiment raised by King Charles II on 13 July 1680. The 8th King’s Regiment became known as The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) in 1881 and began to recruit from the city. In 1921, the title was altered to The King’s Regiment (Liverpool). In 1958, it was amalgamated with the Manchester Regiment (63rd and 96th Regiments) to become The King’s Regiment. In July 2006, the King’s Regiment was amalgamated with the King’s Own Royal Border Regiment and the Queen’s Lancashire Regiment to form the present day Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment.

2.2 The Council has very close ties with the former King’s Regiment’s. The Queen’s Colour and the Regimental Colour of The King’s Regiment (Liverpool) were laid up in Bootle Town Hall in 1966 and 1975 respectively;
The names of many Kingsmen of both World Wars are displayed on the Borough's various war memorials; and the commemorative stone for Arthur Proctor VC was recently laid in King's Garden, Bootle. Captain Matt Titchener, a member of the Royal Military Police was commissioned in 1992 into the King's Regiment and was sadly killed in Basra, Iraq in 2003. This is now commemorated on the war memorial in Southport.

2.3 The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment has been the Army’s Infantry Regiment of the North West of England since 1 July 2006 and it comprises of two Regular Army battalions. The 1st Battalion is currently based in Cyprus and the 2nd Battalion based in Lancashire is currently in preparation for an operational deployment overseas in 2017. The Army Reserve Battalion, the 4th Battalion, has bases throughout the North West and it is currently deployed to Cyprus on United Nations peace-keeping duties.

2.4 The Regimental Band of the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment is based in Liverpool and frequently performs at home and overseas. The University Cadets, Combined Cadet Force Cadets, Army Cadets and Regimental Association Branches all owe their allegiance to the Regiment.

2.5 The head of the Regimental family is Her Majesty the Queen and Her Majesty is represented from day to day by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Peter Rafferty MBE. The Regimental Headquarters is based in Fulwood Barracks, Preston and is run by the Regimental Secretary, Colonel Christopher Owen. He is the officer who would deal with the management of an offer of, and the arrangements for the Freedom of the Borough.

3. Conferment of Freedom of the Borough

3.1 In order to confer the Freedom of the Borough upon an individual or service the Council would need to pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, where notice of the object of the meeting has been given.

3.2 If the Council was minded to grant the Freedom of the Borough to the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, the Regimental Secretary would be advised and arrangements made for the Freedom to be bestowed upon the Regiment on a date to be determined in 2017.

3.3 Following the Extraordinary Council meeting, the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment would then march through the streets of the Bootle Town Centre to Bootle Town Hall with colours flying, bands playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

3.4 A scroll bestowing the honour would need to be ordered and produced, and arrangements made for a civic reception for the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, and invited guests to take place at the rising of the Extraordinary Council meeting and the March through Bootle Town Centre. The costs of the scroll and reception could be financed from the Mayoral Hospitality budget provision.