
Report to: Cabinet **Date of Meeting:** 16th August 2012

Subject: 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Report of: Director of Corporate Commissioning **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To consider the attached letter from the Leader of Bury Council seeking support for their petition asking the Government to reconsider their proposal to disband the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusilliers.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet considers any action it wishes to take in respect of the request from the Leader of Bury Council.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To consider the request.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs Nil

(B) Capital Costs Nil

Implications:

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

Legal		
Human Resources		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

There is no impact on service delivery.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no financial implications. (FD 1699/2011) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD1027) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a letter from the Leader of Bury Council, requesting the Council to support their petition to the Government. The petition requests the Government to re-consider their proposal to disband the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.
- 1.2 In particular, the letter requests that the Council places a link to the e-petition on the Council's web site.

Councillor M Connolly
Leader of the Council

Our Ref MC/JH
Your Ref
Date 11 July 2012
Please ask for Councillor Mike Connolly
Direct Line 0161 253 5103
Direct Fax 0161 253 5108
E-mail m.connolly@bury.gov.uk

Office of the
Leader of the Council

Dear Leader

Many of you will be aware recent Government announcements there a proposal to scrap the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers by 2014. The timing couldn't be worse for the soldiers and their families as the 2nd Battalion is currently in training to be deployed to Afghanistan in 2013

As you know Bury has, for over 100 years, been the home of the Fusiliers and for many thousands of families who have connections with the Fusiliers and its rich heritage.

As Leader of the Council I am calling on the people of Bury and beyond to stand up and support the 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. I am shocked at the Government's plan to axe the battalion as part of army cutbacks, and will be raising this as a matter of urgency when the Council's Cabinet meets on Wednesday (11 July).

The Fusiliers Regiment and their wider families play an important role in the community and day-to-day life of the Borough. The Fusiliers are Freemen of the Borough and the Regiment is an integral part of our history, with troops and their families making a great sacrifice throughout the generations. They have defended us and it is right that we support them now in their hour of need.

This is a Regiment with a record second to none. It is one of the best recruiting Regiments in the British Army. The Fusiliers' operational record, which recently includes Northern Ireland, Kosovo/Bosnia, both Iraq Wars and Afghanistan, reinforces the proud history of a Regiment who won six Victoria Crosses at Gallipoli to say nothing of numerous other awards and campaigns. The commitment of the regiment to our Country's security is exemplary and the support and resilience of the people of the North West has never faltered. They believe in what it means to be a Fusilier and that we must fight to retain the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

-2-

11 July 2012

The only way that the Government will reconsider this decision is if we get 100,000 signatures on the Government's e-petition web site. I would be grateful for your Council's support for the campaign to ask the Government to think again by putting a link on your web site's home page - <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/35724> which will take you straight to the petition.

Thank you for your support in this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Connolly". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Mike Connolly
Leader of the Council