



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Homecoming Parade and Civic Reception to mark the Military's return from their tour of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan
Date:	Friday, 22 nd August, 2008
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (ext. 6325)
Contact Officer:	Ms. Sandra Robinson, Lord Mayor's Principal Officer (ext. 6244)

Relevant Background Information

A number of Members have suggested that a homecoming parade followed by a civic reception should be held in the city to mark the Royal Irish Regiment's return from their tour of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Key Issues

The homecoming parade and civic reception for the Royal Irish Regiment would aim to recognise the roles, responsibilities and sacrifices of the Regiment and their families during the recent tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However, following lengthy discussions with Senior Officers from the Royal Irish Regiment and Military Headquarters (responsible for the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the Army) it is clear that there is a preference to have one parade and civic reception for all three services of the military.

Due to logistical restraints and the need to recognise all those who have been involved in the tours in Iraq and Afghanistan it is felt that the holding of a parade and civic reception in honour of the sacrifice made by the three services would be the most appropriate way of acknowledging all those involved.

Resource Implications

The provision of hospitality at an estimated cost of £5,000.

Recommendations

To approve the provision of a civic reception on 2nd November, 2008 following a parade within the city to mark the Military's return from their tour of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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