



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Armed Forces Day
Date:	23 rd April, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Principal Committee Administrator

Relevant Background Information

The Committee is reminded that in April 2009 it considered a request from the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff on behalf of the Ministry of Defence for the Council to fly the Armed Forces Day flag for the week commencing 22nd June.

The Committee agreed not to accede to the request. However, the Council, at its meeting on 5th May, rejected the decision of the Committee and agreed that, in accordance with existing Council policy, the request to fly the Armed Forces Flag at the City Hall be acceded to but that the approval be for one day only.

Key Issues

A letter has been received from the Chief of the Defence Staff making a similar request for the flying of the Armed Forces flag at the City Hall from 21st June till 26th June this year.

As in 2009, the Ministry of Defence has offered to provide the Council with the flag, a copy of which is shown at appendix 1.

The existing Council policy on the flying of flags allows for flags other than the Union Flag to be flown on specific occasions. For example, the Cross of St. Patrick is flown on 17th March, the European Union Flag is flown on Europe Day on 9th May and the Red Ensign is flown on National Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September each year.

The options open to the Committee are:

1. to accede to the request from the Ministry of Defence for the Armed Forces Flag to be flown at the City Hall for the period from 21st till 26th June; or
2. in line with the decision taken last year, to accede to the request but to limit the period during which the flag will be flown to the Armed Forces Day itself, that is, 26th June; or
3. to refuse the request.

It is now clear that requests for the flying of the Armed Forces flag will continue to be received on an annual basis and the Committee might also wish to determine a policy for future years so that it will not be necessary for individual requests to be brought before the Committee year on year.

Resource Implications

None.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to give consideration to the three options set out above and to decide how it wishes to proceed.

The Committee is requested also to decide if it wishes its decision to become a policy for future years.

Decision Tracking

Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services

26th May, 2010.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Armed Forces Day Flag