



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Wreath-Laying at the Cenotaph
Date:	11th October, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 24th August, 2012 agreed a set of recommendations concerning the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph at the City Hall during the Remembrance Day event. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.
1.2	The recommendations agreed were to set in place a policy for dealing with additional requests from Honorary Consuls wishing to be included in the list of those entitled to lay a wreath during the Remembrance Day event. The Royal British Legion had at that time expressed concerns at the number of organisations included in the event, which resulted in a particularly long ceremony which some of the more elderly participants found to be arduous. The Committee had agreed that, in order to accommodate new requests, a <u>single</u> additional invitation would issued to the other Honorary Consuls on a strictly rotational basis, ensuring all Consuls were fairly treated, and the attending Honorary Consul would be asked to lay a wreath on behalf of all of the other Honorary Consuls in Northern Ireland.

2	Key Issues
2.1	A request has been received from the Honorary Consul of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the Committee to reconsider the policy and to allow him, as a representative of a sovereign country which participated in the Allied Forces during the War, to lay a wreath on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
2.2	A meeting was held with the President of the Royal British Legion and the position of the Legion has changed from that in 2012 when the Committee established the existing policy. The Legion would now ask the Committee to consider permitting the Honorary Consuls of both Saint Vincent and the

	Grenadines and of Malta to participate in the Remembrance Day event in their own right and not to form part of a policy of rotating such privilege amongst a number of Honorary Consuls. The Legion are of the opinion that to accede to the request would only add a few minutes to the overall length of the service and that this is reasonable given the accredited service of people from those Countries during the War.
2.3	The Committee should note that, if it were minded to accede to the request, this could set a precedent should further requests be received from other Honorary Consuls, although the Royal British Legion has indicated that the view of the Northern Ireland Consular Association is that such requests are unlikely to be forthcoming.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	None.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are not any equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the request from the Honorary Consul of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, supported by the Royal British Legion, and to decide if it wishes to amend the existing policy to allow the Honorary Consuls from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and from Malta to be included in future Remembrance Day events.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager October, 2013	

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Copy of Committee Report of 24th August, 2012	