

Cabinet – 11 July 2018

Remembrance Day Parades

Portfolio: Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder, Regeneration

Related portfolios: None

Service: Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: No

1. Summary

- 1.1 Cabinet last considered the issue of Remembrance Day parades at the Cabinet meeting of 14 December 2016.
- 1.2 Cabinet at that time agreed to make a financial contribution to event organisers to assist with traffic management arrangements for parades in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The financial contribution was capped at 30% of traffic management costs up to an overall cap of £1,000 per parade with these arrangements being applicable only to parades that took place in 2016.
- 1.3 Further, Cabinet agreed to review this financial contribution during the course of the financial year 2019/20, in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan, and to determine any future arrangements through this review.
- 1.4 An early commitment of the new administration following elections in May 2018 was to put in place council funding to support future Remembrance Day parades by fully funding the required traffic management costs. This report addresses the political commitment and how this will work in practice.
- 1.5 In line with previous Cabinet resolutions, any such funding will be limited to the 10 parades which took place in 2016 only. See section 3.4.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agree to fund the entire traffic management costs arising from Remembrance Day Parades in the borough, starting in November 2018 and yearly thereafter.

- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees this arrangement is applicable only to those parades that took place in 2016 (as set out in section 3.4), based on the specifically agreed routes and individual traffic management arrangements for each event as refined during 2017.
- 2.3 That Cabinet notes that the Council will procure and instruct appropriate traffic management companies, which will work with Event Organisers, to ensure best value and further avoid this burden falling to individual event organisers.
- 2.4 That Cabinet consider requesting each Event Organiser to include on their literature for the parades that it is 'Supported by Walsall Council'

3. Report detail

- 3.1 Historically, Remembrance Day parades have taken place at 10 individual locations within the borough. Each year the Council is the event organiser for the civic Walsall Town Centre parade and funds it accordingly.
- 3.2 Until 2015, the Royal British Legion Association, the Scouting Organisation and relevant Community Groups applied to the Police to arrange for appropriate Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) to be put in place to facilitate the other 9 borough wide parades. The Police informed the Council's Traffic Management Team of the applications and the Council then made the Street Closure Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to facilitate the parades.
- 3.3 In summer 2016 the Police published their updated Safety First Policy and advised that, in line with this Policy, they would no longer support any Remembrance Day parades nor provide temporary traffic management which involves road closures for any future parades. The Police would, however, continue to carry out their normal community policing at the events.
- 3.4 Subsequent to discussions in September 2016 between the Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) it was agreed that the costs for traffic management would be shared between the PCC and Council, for the 2016 Parades only. 10 parades successfully took place in November 2016 at the following locations:
 - Aldridge
 - Walsall Wood
 - Brownhills
 - Bloxwich
 - Darlaston
 - Streetly
 - Pelsall
 - Willenhall
 - Short Heath
 - Walsall Town Centre
- 3.5 In September and December 2016, Cabinet considered the future funding arrangements for Remembrance Day parades, taking into account the recommendations of the Remembrance Sunday Working Group (a working group

of the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee). Cabinet agreed to make a financial contribution to the event organisers to assist with traffic management arrangements for parades in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The financial contribution was capped at 30% of traffic management costs up to an overall cap of £1,000 per parade with these arrangements being applicable only to parades that took place in 2016.

- 3.6 Despite the welcome Council contribution, feedback from event organisers has highlighted the difficulties they face with securing funding for the implementation of traffic management arrangements and being required to use their limited funds to pay the VAT element of the overall invoice.
- 3.7 For example, in 2017 the Streetly parade did not take place as the event organisers could not raise the necessary funding to pay for suitable and safe traffic management arrangements to be implemented. Event organisers for the remaining 8 parades struggled to secure funding for their share of the traffic management costs, resulting in the need to rationalise and reduce the scope of their ideal parade solution however others managed to secure private sponsorship and funding to assist.
- 3.8 The Council has continued to receive requests from event organisers to reconsider the level of its financial contribution to Remembrance Day parades.
- 3.9 In November 2018, we commemorate the centenary of the Armistice that ended the First World War (1914-18). Remembrance Day Parades in local areas will form an important part of the borough's commemorations in this commemorative year.
- 3.10 With the ongoing financial pressure on event organisers, and the need for certainty leading up to this November's important events, Cabinet wishes to manage the procurement of traffic management services and funding the entire traffic management costs. By doing so, the Council will be able to ensure that the optimal traffic management solution is delivered at the most cost effective price, whilst meeting the expectations of the local community for their individually important commemorative event to continue.
- 3.11 Specialised traffic management services for the Walsall Town Centre Parade is procured via the existing Highways Maintenance Contract with Tarmac and so this approach will be utilised to ensure necessary accreditation, expertise and appropriate insurances for the traffic management company

4. Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.1 The ongoing delivery of locally important Remembrance Day parades will support the Corporate Plan 2018 – 2021 priority of building and maintaining a strong sense of belonging and cohesion within our communities.

5 Risk management

- 5.1 The Council currently considers all matters of safety through the Safety Advisory Group process which considers and reviews all proposals from event Organisers.

- 5.2 The specified Organiser for each Parade will be responsible for the Event and the Council will procure the appropriate traffic management company to assist them. The appointed traffic management company will then work with each Organiser to develop the plans and seek approval from the Highway Authority. The Highway Authority will then implement the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders to authorise the Parades.
- 5.3 There is a risk that if the limited financial assistance provided by the Council to event organisers continues at the current level, further local parades may not go ahead, resulting in reputational damage to the Council for failure to support these local and nationally important events.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Council has already committed to providing up to £9,000 per year for 2018 and 2019 to support event organisers in the implementation of suitable and safe traffic management arrangements for Remembrance Day parades. In addition to this, as event organiser for the civic Walsall Town Centre event, the Council covers the full costs of traffic management at approximately £3,100 per year.
- 6.2 The average cost for traffic management measures implemented at each parade in 2016/2017 was approximately £3,000, although detailed costs vary between £2,000 and £4,000. To implement the traffic management measured delivered in 2016/17, it is estimated that the total cost for the 10 parades would be approximately £35,000.
- 6.3 In agreeing to recommendation 2.1, the Council would need to make an ongoing total annual provision of approximately £35,000 and to be increased with inflation over time. This will be funded from existing Economy & Environment budgets.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There is no legal requirement for the Council to fund Remembrance Day parades.
- 7.2 As the Police are no longer assisting with any Road Closures, the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 will no longer be the appropriate legal Order and if necessary and appropriate the Council will advertise road closures under the Highways Act or Special Events Act.
- 7.3 The Parades in 2017 were carried out in accordance with Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by the Road Traffic Regulation (Special Events) Act 1994 and was the Council's (Special Events – Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service) Traffic Regulation Order 2017, in compliance with Section 16A of the RTA 1984. The intention will be to implement similarly for 2018.
- 7.4 The Event Organiser will retain the overall responsibility for the Event and Parade.

8. Procurement Implications/Social Value

- 8.1 As detailed earlier the traffic management companies will be procured by the Council through the existing Highways Maintenance Contract with our partner Tarmac.

9. Property implications

- 9.1 None arising as a result of this report

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 None specifically resulting from this report

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1 No direct staffing implications

12. Reducing inequalities

As part of the Safety Advisory Group process, accessibility for, and safety of, all Remembrance Day parade attendees and the wider general public will have been considered.

13. Consultation

- 13.1 Discussions will be taking place between Council Officers, Event Organisers and colleagues from West Midlands Police about all matters and formal stages with regards to the appropriate arrangements and assessments is provisionally as detailed below:

- 11 July - Cabinet
- 20 July – letter to all Organisers explaining Cabinet Decision
- 31 Aug – return date for all Organiser Application Forms
- 6 September – Individual SAG meetings (Organiser, Police, Council Team)
- October – individual SAGs if necessary

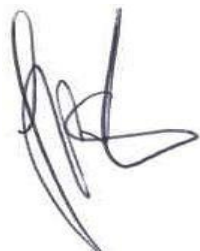
- 13.2 The Council's Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the matter in 2016 and advised Cabinet of their recommendations.

Background papers

Cabinet Report 14 December 2016

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25 June 2018



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3 July 2018