

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy**Civic Activities****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for new civic activities in 2027 and the associated costs.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 1. A Freedom of Entry Parade be held in March 2027.**
- 2. A delegation of representatives from Myszków be hosted in March 2027.**
- 3. An additional budget of £10,000 to support these activities be approved, with the cost being funded from General Fund Reserves.**

3. Detail

The Council has a longstanding commitment to celebrating Broxtowe's civic, military and international relationships through events that promote community pride, cultural understanding and the Borough's heritage. Cabinet approval is therefore sought for two significant civic activities to be delivered in March 2027, namely a Freedom of Entry Parade in Beeston and the hosting of a delegation from Broxtowe's friendship town of Myszków in Poland.

Since the Royal Engineers were granted the Freedom of the Borough in 2009, it has been customary for Freedom of Entry Parades to take place periodically across the Borough's towns. The most recent parade was held in Stapleford in 2024. Subject to approval, it is proposed that the next parade takes place in Beeston in March 2027, reflecting the town's close proximity to Chilwell Barracks. The parade would culminate in a commemorative service in Broadgate Park, supported by family-friendly activities and, where possible, aligned with other cultural programming taking place in Beeston.

The proposed event would be particularly significant as it would provide an opportunity to mark the forthcoming closure of Chilwell Barracks and celebrate the Borough's longstanding military heritage. It would recognise the important contribution made by generations of military personnel who have lived, trained and deployed from the site, while also acknowledging the strong relationship between the Armed Forces and the local community as part of the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Approval is also sought to host a delegation from Broxtowe's friendship town of Myszków, Poland, in March 2027. A formal friendship agreement between the two towns has been in place since 1998 and continues to provide valuable opportunities for cultural and civic exchange.

Although a planned visit from Myszków in 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the relationship has remained strong, particularly through the support provided by Myszków for Ukrainian refugees and the humanitarian efforts coordinated through the partnership.

In April 2026, a delegation of seven representatives from Broxtowe visited Myszków to reaffirm and strengthen this important relationship. Hosting a return delegation of up to 10 visitors, including translators, would demonstrate the Council's appreciation for the hospitality shown during that visit and recognise the support provided by Myszków in responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Scheduling the visit to coincide with the proposed Freedom of Entry Parade and the annual Broxtowe Voluntary Awards would maximise the value of the visit by enabling the delegation to experience two of the Borough's flagship civic events, while reducing costs by incorporating existing events. The visit would also provide an opportunity to showcase Broxtowe's heritage, culture and attractions through visits to sites such as the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, Bennerley Viaduct and Brinsley Headstocks.

Together, these activities will strengthen community cohesion, celebrate the Borough's military heritage, reinforce international partnerships and enhance Broxtowe's civic reputation. Cabinet approval is therefore requested for both events and for the associated expenditure required to deliver them successfully. Estimated costs are shown in the **Appendix**.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The total cost of these two Civic events is £21,500, of which £11,500 could be met from existing Civic related budgets. If Members, were to approve the proposals, a net budget uplift of £10,000 would be required to support the activities and would be met by an allocation from General Fund Reserves.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report it is important to note that each event should be subject to the necessary risk assessments and planning which should identify other requirements such as insurance cover and temporary road closures etc.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Any climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this not a policy it does not require an equality impact assessment.

13. Background Papers

Nil.