

Report to:
Special Council Meeting

Agenda
Item

4

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Portfolio: Leader's

Key Decision: Not applicable.

Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **RAF Spadeadam - Freedom of the City of Carlisle.**

Report Number: GD.52/17

Report of: Corporate Director of Governance & Regulatory Services

PURPOSE/SUMMARY

The Report recommends that RAF Spadeadam be granted the Freedom of the City of Carlisle.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council resolve:

1. That RAF Spadeadam be granted the Freedom of the City of Carlisle in recognition of the historic and proud links between the City and the RAF Station in what is the RAF's Centenary Year.
2. That the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services make arrangements for a formal freedom ceremony and the presentation of a casket containing an address to RAF Spadeadam and a Special Meeting of the Council take place in order to allow such presentation to take place.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council may grant the freedom of the City. In relation to the granting of the Freedom of the City to military bodies, this confers the right upon the recipient to march through the City on all ceremonial occasions with drums beating, bands playing, colours flying and bayonets fixed.
- 1.2 The Council must pass a resolution at a meeting of the Authority which has been specially convened for the purpose and where notice of the object of the meeting has been given. The resolution must be passed by at least two-thirds of the Members that vote on it.

2. RAF SPADEADAM

- 2.1 RAF Spadeadam's mission is 'To deliver world-class, operationally-representative electronic warfare training and trials facilities to UK and Allied military personnel, wherever and whenever required.'
- 2.2 Originally built in the late 1950s, as part of the Blue Streak Missile programme, the station opened as an Electronic Warfare Tactics Range on 12 May 1976. RAF Spadeadam is the only facility in Europe where aircrew can develop and practice operational manoeuvres and tactics against the variety of radio frequency and infra-red surface-to-air threats they are likely to face on operations. As such RAF Spadeadam is used by aircraft from the RAF, Army and Navy, as well as by European and NATO allies. The training they provide gives British aircrew the skills they need to survive and operate in hostile environments and to deliver timely and effective support to British and Allied personnel engaged in operations on the ground.
- 2.3 RAF Spadeadam currently provides a training and trials environment for numerous operational capabilities – such as Time Sensitive Targeting, Close Air Support, Combat Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance, Air-Land Integration, Counter Improvised Explosive Device,

Airborne Platform Protection and Electronic Defence and Change Detection. RAF Spadeadam's segregated airspace enables UK and Allied aircrew to train in a complex and operationally representative environment containing realistic target sets and authentic surface-to-air threats. As well as the ability to replicate the dangerous and unpredictable nature of modern warfare within Spadeadam's airspace, they are also able to deploy threat systems and target sets to other locations; their personnel regularly deploy in support of exercises across the UK and abroad. In September 2017, RAF Spadeadam personnel will deploy on concurrent exercises to Sweden, Spain and Australia whilst still maintaining training at the base.

- 2.4 RAF Spadeadam is the only full time military establishment in the North West of England. Headed by a Wing Commander, there are approximately 180 personnel based at RAF Spadeadam comprising of: 106 military personnel; 12 Civil Servants and 62 contractors. For over 41-years, RAF Spadeadam's personnel and their families have lived amongst the civilian community in Brampton; all of the Civil Servants and the vast majority of the contract staff are employed from the Brampton and Carlisle area. Carlisle is recognised as the Station's main centre of amenities and many of its personnel support various volunteer organisations in the city. RAF Spadeadam is an appreciated and significant part of the whole of the Council's area, both urban and rural.
- 2.5 On 1 April 2018, the Royal Air Force will celebrate its centenary. The Royal Air Force was formed on 1 April 1918, independent of the British Army and Royal Navy – the first time that any country had formed an entirely separate and independent air force.
- 2.6 To celebrate this, the Royal Air Force has formed a team (RAF100) to coordinate national and local events. The official launch of the RAF100 campaign will be on 1 October 2017; events will run throughout the year until 1 October 2018. The purpose of RAF100 is to salute their centenary and:

- COMMEMORATE- their achievements and all those who have served.
- CELEBRATE- the RAF of today.
- INSPIRE- their people and the wider public about their future.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1** The Labour and Conservative Group Leaders have been consulted and are supportive of the proposals.

4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** In recognition of the historic connection between the City of Carlisle and RAF Spadeadam, that the said RAF Station be granted the Freedom of the City of Carlisle.

Contact Officer: Mark Lambert

Ext: 7019

Appendices attached to report: