

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION
MANAGER

REPORT NO. DLS2

DATE: 11th October 2004

TITLE:	ARMISTICE DAY
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	NONE
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	NOT APPLICABLE
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	NONE

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	NOT APPLICABLE
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	NOT APPLICABLE
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	NOT APPLICABLE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	NOT APPLICABLE
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	NONE

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Cabinet on how, if at all, Armistice Day and in particular the “Two Minute Silence” should be observed. This report has arisen following a request from the Royal British Legion to know what support is likely from local authorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet consider

- (1) whether or not to support an official “Two Minute Silence” within Council buildings on 11th November 2004 and subsequent years; and
- (2) what other action to commemorate the anniversary might be taken.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Royal British Legion are again seeking support from local authorities for the commemoration of Armistice Day by
 - (a) publicising remembrance and the Two Minute Silence;
 - (b) encouraging staff and customers to observe the Silence;
 - (c) signalling the start and end of the Silence by firing maroon rockets or guns.
- 3.2 Since the restoration of the Armistice Day commemoration the District Council have given support by the purchase of maroon rockets to mark the start and end of the Silence. Initially this was for Grantham only but has since extended to a similar purchase for Bourne, Stamford and the Deepings. The total cost is in the region of £140 for four sets of rockets.
- 3.3 For 2004 each town will be funding its own commemoration. I am aware that the Grantham Charter Trustees will be buying a set of rockets but do not know what other towns will be doing.
- 3.4 No other form of commemoration has been undertaken. The idea of the Silence has been supported in principle in the past without it being imposed on either staff or visitors. The previous Chief Executive let it be known that whilst he had no objection to staff observing the silence personally, or in groups (with managerial consent) he would not impose anything.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

None available.

5. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

None

6. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

None.

7. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

Not applicable.

8. CONCLUSIONS

It would be useful to know the views of the Cabinet at this stage, so that appropriate publicity can, if necessary, be given. There have been a number of enquiries from the public in previous years (not many) as to whether or not the Council will be “officially” supporting the commemoration.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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