



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	36th Ulster Division Memorial Association – parade to Cenotaph
Date:	20 th June 2008
Reporting Officer:	Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	George Wright – Head of Facilities Management

Relevant background information

A request has been received from the 36th Ulster Division Memorial Association to hold a parade to the City Hall on 31st July 2008 between the hours of 19:45 and 21:00, for the purpose of holding a short act of remembrance and the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph.

The Association states that the reason for the proposed parade and ceremony is to “recall the sacrifice of the 16th Irish and 36th Ulster Divisions during the Great War”.

Members will note that, in general, requests for use of the City Hall grounds are now dealt with under authority delegated to the Director of Corporate Services, however this authority specifically excludes the Cenotaph area and consequently the Committee’s decision in the matter is sought.

Members are advised that this parade and ceremony was permitted in 2007, however the request for permission was not received until late in June 2007 at which time the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee had already taken place, and as no Committees sit in July the matter was dealt with at that time under authority delegated by the Council’s Standing Orders to the Chief Executive. The request was approved and passed off without incident. Approximately 300 people attended.

The Association are not seeking any hospitality or the use of any Council staff or equipment in respect of this request; it is purely a request for access to the Cenotaph.

Key Issues

The above Association has confirmed that, although it is not itself registered with the Royal British Legion or the Somme Association, it is an umbrella body comprised of 16 separate groups which are so registered.

This event will obviously require approval from the Parades Commission and also the PSNI, which has not as yet been granted. The Association has confirmed that it will seek the necessary approvals from the NI Parades Commission to march from York Street to the City Hall.

Resource Implications

Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

Asset & other implications

There are no direct asset implications arising from this report.

Recommendations & Decisions

The Committee's approval is sought to permit the 36th Ulster Division Memorial Association to organize a march and commemorative service at the Cenotaph on 31st July 2008, subject to the Association obtaining the necessary approvals from the Parades Commission and PSNI and making available copies of these documents to Council Officers prior to the event.

Key to Abbreviations

PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Documents attached

Original request from the 36th Ulster Memorial Association.