



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Burma Star Association (Belfast Branch)
Date:	24 th September, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6324)
Contact Officer:	Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (ext 6316)

Relevant Background Information

The Burma Star Association was established in Northern Ireland in 1954. It comprises ex-service personnel who have been awarded with the Burma Star for service in Burma during World War II or with the Pacific Star with Burma Clasp. Today there are 44 surviving members of the Belfast Branch, most of whom are between 81 and 95 years of age.

Each August the Belfast Branch parades to the Cenotaph at the City Hall on the Sunday closest to the 15th to mark the anniversary of VJ Day in 1945. Due to ill health and mobility problems, only a dozen or so veterans are now able to take part in the parade. It is for this reason that the Belfast Branch will be handing over its Standard at a service in St Ann's Cathedral on Sunday, 3rd October, 2010.

Key Issues

Given the Council's close relationship with the Burma Star Association over a number of years, several members of Council have expressed a desire for the Council to mark the disbandment of the Belfast Branch with a Civic Reception.

If the Committee were minded to host such a reception, it is anticipated that it would be held in November or December this year over a lunchtime, as this is more suitable for the elderly veterans.

Resource Implications

The cost of a Civic Lunch will be approximately £25 per head and can be covered under the existing Civic Hospitality Budget.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to mark the disbandment of the Burma Star Association (Belfast Branch) by hosting a Civic Lunch in the City Hall.

Decision Tracking

Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager 30 th November, 2010
