



Subject:	Invitation to Attend the Centenary Ceremony for the Battle of Messines Ridge
Date:	19 th May, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes No

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

<input type="checkbox"/>
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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the nomination of Members to attend the centenary ceremony for the Battle of Messines Ridge in Belgium.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the nomination of Members to attend the event.
3.0	Main report

3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1.1	The Council has received an invitation from the UK and Irish Governments for a number of Members to attend the centenary ceremony for the Battle of Messines Ridge in Belgium on 7 th June. Details of the event are attached at Appendix 1.
3.1.2	Following contact with the organisers, we have been able to secure invitations for one representative of each of the Political Parties represented on the Council, together with a Council officer.
3.1.3	The Somme Association is organising a visit to Belgium which will include this ceremony. The group would leave on 6 th June and return on 9 th June. It should be noted that anyone attending the visit would be absent for polling day for the General Election on 8 th June. Given the tight time scales associated with making the booking with the Somme Association trip, it would be necessary to confirm any booking with them no later than Monday, 22 nd May.
3.2	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.2.1	The estimated cost of the visit with the Somme Association, together with appropriate subsistence payments would be £880 per person.
3.2.2	This cost can be met from within existing budgets.
3.3	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.3.1	There are not any Good Relations or Equality considerations associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1 - The Centenary Ceremony for the Battle of Messines Ridge