

Notice of Motion, submitted by the Mayor, Councillor G Baxendale

That Council approve, in principle, a homecoming parade for the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment and that the Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary arrangements, in conjunction with the officer commanding the Rear Operations Group, for the Freedom of the Borough to be awarded and the Homecoming Parade, in November 2010.

Background

The 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment (Cheshire), were recently deployed to the Helmand Province in Afghanistan, for a six month active service tour. The Battalion recruits from Congleton, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, Macclesfield and Crewe. Therefore, local men are involved. I have been in contact with Major Barney Barnbrook, the officer commanding the Rear Operations Group, to discuss this matter. The Regimental Secretary from the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment has also contacted me.

The demised Councils of Crewe and Nantwich, Macclesfield and Congleton have all admitted the Regiment to the Freedom of their Boroughs. I propose that, to coincide with the Homecoming Parade, that Cheshire East should, in its own right, admit the Regiment and make arrangements for an appropriate ceremony. The reason for this motion is to ensure that appropriate arrangements can be made for the Parade and to agree a process, to ensure that matters affecting the Mayoralty can be agreed in a timely manner, with appropriate Member input.