

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

British Forces Free Postage Petition 29th March 2007

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Members of a request from Tewkesbury Borough Council seeking support for their campaign to reinstate free postage for British forces overseas.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee consider whether this Council should support the motion passed by Tewkesbury Borough Council in relation to free postage for British forces stationed overseas.

1.0 Report

The following has been received from Tewkesbury Borough Council:

At the meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2007 the following Motion was considered:

'This Council is aware of the situation in which British forces and their families who are stationed overseas cannot receive parcels free of charge as they could in 2003.

This Council believes that the situation is both an appalling and disgraceful way to treat our dedicated and hardworking troops and their families given the hardships that they face in the world's hotspots and war zones and therefore asks that the Government reinstates this service as a matter of urgency.

In addition this Council calls upon:

- 1. Each of it's Town and Parish Councils to offer their support to the Motion*
- 2. Each Local Authority in the Country to offer their support to this Motion*
- 3. Each Local Authority across the Country to invite the Town and Parish Councils in their area to support this Motion '*

My Council was overwhelmingly in support of this Motion and as such I am now writing to ask whether your Authority would consider offering its support to this Motion and if

so to ask you to write to the appropriate Government Minister, Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Des Browne MP, to express your support.

If you have Town and Parish Councils in your area I would be grateful if you could pass this letter on to them and seek their support in writing to the Minister.

2.0 Options

The Terms of Reference of the Council Business Committee provide for this committee to determine the method of response and where necessary ratify responses on behalf of full Council to consultations.

Whilst a process is in place to deal with government and other consultation exercises in an efficient manner, Members may wish to consider these more 'ad hoc' issues promoted by other Local Authorities on a more individual basis.

The Committee is therefore requested to consider:

Option 1 – to agree with the motion put forward and offer support by writing to the Secretary of State and also passing on the request to Parish and Town Councils in the District.

Option 2 – to take no action

Option 3 – to refer the matter to full Council for a full debate by all members.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None as a direct result of this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None as a direct result of this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has prepared the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from Tewkesbury Borough Council –
26th February 2007

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