

REPORT TO: Policies & Governance Committee (19 July 2017)

DATE: 13 July 2017

REPORT BY: Joe Ashton (Deputy Town Clerk)

SUBJECT: Mayoral Cadet Scheme

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 5

Summary

This report concerns a request from Keighley Sea Cadets and Keighley Marine Cadets to provide one or more mayoral cadets for Keighley Town Council.

Background and Introduction

The Keighley Detachment of the Royal Marines Cadets wrote to Keighley Town Council on 13 June 2017 requesting that consideration be given to the creation of the role of Mayoral Cadet for Keighley civil parish. Although no other town or parish council within Bradford district currently has such a scheme, it has nevertheless been a feature of the City of Bradford lord mayoralty for many years and does operate at parish-level in some other larger parish and town councils with mayors.

Following discussion between the Town mayor, Deputy Town Clerk and Town Clerk, it is proposed that one or more high-achieving cadets could be selected, by an internally-agreed process, from within the local Sea and Marine Cadets Unit to serve a twelve month term. The selection would be a matter for the Sea and Marine Cadets. The candidates would then be formally presented to the Town Mayor at a meeting of the Full Council every July in order to allow for some cross-over from one civic year to another. Each candidate would be awarded with a special badge for their uniform depicting the Town Council logo to be worn during the year of service.

The role of a Mayoral Cadet is to accompany, when requested, the Town Mayor and to provide a ceremonial guard and otherwise assist the Mayor. It is recommended that a minimum of two cadets are appointed per year, therefore ensuring some company for the cadets and the ability to flank the Mayor on either side during processions and (where appropriate) dinners and formal meetings.

It is anticipated that the Mayoral Cadets might attend ten (or so) functions per year, as well as the Annual Meeting of Council/Mayor Making. These functions would be of the larger or more ceremonial nature or might be connected with the Armed Forces. It is unlikely that cadets would be asked to attend smaller events such as official openings, fetes, coffee mornings and such like.

There is no limit to the number of cadets that can be appointed or the number of units/detachments that can be represented. For example, it is possible to have representation from each of the armed services. However, in order to trial the scheme in Keighley and reduce its complexity, it is proposed to limit the number of places to two and to draw them from the local Sea and Marine Cadets who have proactively requested to provide this service to the Mayor. Should the scheme be successful, it has the potential to be expanded at a later date following review of the trial.

Legal considerations

There is no specific power which permits the adoption of a Mayoral Cadet or rules/regulations concerning how such as scheme is operated. The scheme would be a voluntary, ceremonial position for which there is precedent in many other local authorities.

A Mayoral Cadet scheme is likely to improve community safety due to the active engagement of young people in civic life and the positive role models this provides. Consequently, the scheme would likely have a positive impact on the reduction of crime and disorder.

With regards to the Equality Act 2010, the scheme would be open to any person eligible to be a member of the Sea and Marine Cadets, which is a mixed unit. Naturally, there is an age limit placed on the cadet scheme. Reasonable adjustments could be made, as required, to meet other particular needs and to be discussed between the Town Council and the Sea and Marine Cadets.

Financial considerations

Costs associated with the scheme are limited to the provision of a badge for each appointed cadet, which could be met from within the existing promotional budget.

Human Resources considerations

It is important to note that the welfare of the appointed individuals is primarily a matter for the Sea and Marine Cadets but that the Town Council would take all reasonable steps to ensure their health and safety. The cadets would certainly not be Town Council employees but rather would be representing the Sea and Marine Cadets at Town Council functions.

Options

1. To proceed with recommending a Mayoral Cadet scheme as outlined in this report
2. To proceed with recommending a variation of the Mayoral Cadet outlined in this report
3. To decline the invitation to establish a Mayoral Cadet scheme

Recommendation

That Members give consideration to the merits of a Mayoral Cadet scheme and make a recommendation to the Full Town Council for the agreement of a scheme and the inclusion of a relevant section in the Mayoral Handbook (as below).

Recommended section for the Mayoral Handbook

New Section 23: Mayoral Cadet Scheme

Keighley Town Council shall maintain a Mayoral Cadet Scheme at the discretion of the serving Town Mayor and in consultation with the Deputy Town Mayor.

Cadets will be appointed by mutual agreement between Keighley Sea and Marine Cadets and Keighley Town Council, to serve from 1st July to 30th June. The administration of this process shall be delegated to the Town Clerk. Mayoral Cadets shall be formally presented to the Town Mayor at the closest ordinary meeting of the Town Council to the date of 1st of August in each year.

Cadets shall be invited to accompany the Town Mayor to meetings, events and functions, at his/her discretion. Cadets will not ordinarily accompany the Deputy Town Mayor, unless he/she is acting on behalf of the Town Mayor.

Cadets will be presented with a badge of office which may be worn during the year of service.