



Meeting	Full Council
Date	22 March 2023
Report Title	Freedom of the Town Renewal
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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider re-supporting the existing 'Freedom of the Town' honour to 9 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (9 Reg. RLC).
- 1.2 If supported, to consider holding a celebratory event to mark this and recognise the outstanding role of 9 Reg. RLC as a partner to the Council and as a support to the people of Chippenham.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Chippenham Town Council has strong links with 9 Reg. RLC, who are based in Hullavington. 9 Reg. RLC support various events throughout the year such as Remembrance Sunday and Armed Forces Day.
- 2.2 9 Reg. RLC were bestowed the 'Freedom of the Town' by Chippenham Town Council in 2012. This is a high honour bestowed by the Town Council to mark and celebrate the outstanding contribution to the community of Chippenham.
- 2.3 The honour historically gave freedom to parade through the town but is now a ceremonial recognition of outstanding contribution.

## **3.0 RENEWAL OF THE FREEDOM OF THE TOWN FOR 9 REGIMENT RLC**

- 3.1 9 Reg. RLC was previously known as 9 Supply Regiment, the units name and composition changed after 2012.
- 3.2 It is proposed that Council consider re-supporting the existing 'Freedom of the Town' honour to 9 Reg. RLC and to endorse this for any future changes to the make up or naming of the Regiment.
- 3.3 If supported, it is proposed that this support be marked with an 'Freedom Parade' event to be organised at a suitable time within operational commitments of the Regiment and the Council. This could currently take place in September 2023 but is subject to change.
- 3.4 The event could involve a large parade through the town centre with a Regimental Showcase held in Island Park (Monkton Park). This would be a large-scale partnership event with 9 Reg. RLC for the people of Chippenham to enjoy.

#### 4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

4.1 The recognition of the existing ‘Freedom of the Town’ honour to 9 Reg. RLC will contribute to the following corporate priorities;

- Play an active role in the future development of the town through collaboration with partners, stakeholders, and our community.
- Provide and develop facilities and services that promote Chippenham as an attractive and vibrant market town and celebrate its rich history, heritage, and culture.

#### 5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This will involve an additional event held over a weekend, which will be supported by existing staff.

#### 6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There will be minor costs associated with the event to provide items such as refreshments, this will be funded within existing council budgets.

#### 7.0 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The proposal of a celebratory event to mark the renewal of the Freedom of the Town may include an army vehicle showcase in Monkton Park which could have a short term or limited negative impact regarding greenhouse gas emissions and air quality.

Type of impact	Long lasting positive impact	Short term or limited positive impact	No known impact	Short term or limited negative impact	Long lasting negative impact
Land use			x		
Soil and waterbody health			x		
Biodiversity			x		
Greenhouse gas emissions				x - machinery/vehicles for the event duration in Town Centre/Island Park	
Water resources			x		
Pollution			x		
Air quality				x - machinery/vehicles for the event duration in Town Centre/Island Park	
Materials economy			x		
Climate change adaptation			x		

7.2 There will be a minimal negative short-term impact for the few hours of the event if there is an army vehicle showcase held in Monkton Park. This can be mitigated to an extent by requesting that 9 Regiment enforce 'no idling' where possible. Attendees can also be encouraged to use active travel methods.

## 8.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that:

- i) Council re-support the existing 'Freedom of the Town' honour for 9 Reg. RLC and endorse this to include any future changes to the make up or naming of 9 Reg. RLC.
- ii) Council agrees to hold a celebratory event at a suitable time within operational commitments of the Regiment and the Council to celebrate the renewed links and for 9 Reg. RLC to parade through the Town.
- iii) That the details of the award and celebratory event be delegated to the Chief Executive.