



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- ME22/49

Committee:-	Markets and Events Committee
Date:-	1 st February 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Remembrance Day arrangements
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To seek a decision on the timings for Remembrance Day in 2023 and beyond.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that no change is made to the timings for Remembrance Day in future.

3. Information

- 3.1. At an earlier meeting, the Finance and Governance Committee endorsed the idea of moving the annual Sunday Remembrance Day event to the morning, to align it with the national commemorations that took place that day. Currently, it takes place in the afternoon, which is an historical consequence of the arrangements within the former Kettering Borough Council area.
- 3.2. At the time, discussions had been underway with the Royal British Legion and the church about the practicality of moving it. However, shortly after that F&G Ctte, the RBL advised that they did not think that they would be able to support a move to the morning, because of the conflict this would place on their key officers and on veterans who valued the ability to attend more than one event in the county that day.
- 3.3. Consequently, it was decided to keep the 2022 event in the afternoon and to consult fully with interested groups on the practicality of moving it to the morning from 2023 onwards. Consultation took place during November 2022 with the RBL, with the cadet organisations who take part in the event and with the churches and the Lord Lieutenant.
- 3.4. The overwhelming response was a desire to keep the Kettering event in the afternoon. Only one organisation – the Army Cadet Force - supported its move to the morning. The Rector of SS Peter and Paul was not opposed to a morning event, and could re-arrange the church's own services around it. The other responses were broadly as follows

1. Royal British Legion is opposed to the proposal to move to a morning because
 - a) The timing cuts across most if not all local morning services-this could give rise to an availability of clergy, they will have their own churches to serve.
 - b) Similarly, the competition for bands to play will be high due to the other services.
 - c) There are potential issues with organisations attending as they have formed connections with other services which may be hard to break. It will be for the RBL Team, as the current team have family links to morning events
 - d) There is also the pressure on professional services, such as traffic management and PA Services, which are required, if every event is in the morning.
 - e) People will stay with their local event and not come to Kettering.

2. Royal Navy Cadets and Parade Commander Marc Pether. The current parade is very well attended and the best outside Northampton because it enables people to attend more than one event, and consequently the Kettering event has become more of a “regional” focus, allowing Veterans and members of the public to come together to share in a larger community event in Kettering Town Centre. This also facilitates the Lord Lieutenant and other visiting dignitaries to attend Kettering's parade, without which it would start to become an insular and smaller event. Moving the parade to the morning will be a step backwards.

3. Air force cadets - opposed a move to the morning – cadets would be less available to take part and public attendance in the afternoon was stronger because it was in the afternoon.

4. Veteran representative – elderly veterans would be less able to attend in the morning because of their own health issues; the event in the afternoon attracted attendees who would otherwise prioritise Northampton or other places where they had family connections

5. Toller Church – would not be able to take part in an 11am event as this clashed with their own services at that time. Of the view that this would apply to most churches in town.

6. The Lord Lieutenant observed that the advantage of the current arrangements is that he can attend an event in the west of the county and the north of the county on the day and that this gave him the option of designating either as the principal county event if he chose.

3.5. The kernel of the responses is that the Kettering event is well attended and well supported by organisations because it takes place in the afternoon. The change of format of the event to one which takes place outdoors and away from a church building has clearly also proved successful. On the basis that it works well as it is, then the case for change may not be that strong, particularly if it proves difficult for the British Legion to properly support it.

4. Consultation and Engagement

As detailed above.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

Very little. Most costs will apply regardless, although the main cost is traffic management and it may be more expensive to secure traffic management facilities if the event takes place in the morning when we are competing with everywhere else.

6. Climate Change Implications

None discernable.

7. Other Policy Implications

The Council has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and will apply it wherever possible; it will support veterans and mark the work of the country's armed forces, for example on Remembrance Day.

Background Papers

Correspondence with British Legion and cadet organisations.

