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| <b>REQUEST FOR FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH<br/>PARADE 206 ULSTER BATTERY ROYAL ARTILLERY</b> | <b>21 February 2017</b> |
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| <b>CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE<br/>For decision</b> |
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| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b> |  |
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| <b>Strategic Theme</b> | Leadership and Champion |
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| <b>Outcome</b> |  |
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| <b>Lead Officer</b> | Director of Performance |
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| <b>Cost: (If applicable)</b> | Civic lunch – approx. £1500-£2000 |
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## **1.0 Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Committee to make recommendation to Council on a request received from the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland for 206 (Ulster) Battery Royal Artillery to hold a Freedom Parade in Coleraine on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Council's support for this proposal is sought.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 The 206 (Ulster) Battery has a troop based at the Army Reserve Centre in Coleraine and the unit was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Coleraine on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1992.

## **3.0 Request**

3.1 2017 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conferment of the Freedom and the unit plans to mark the occasion with a Freedom of the Borough Parade and reception in the town on the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

3.2 The suggested format for the Parade to the town centre would be 30-40 parading troops in uniform plus a band contingent of 25. Any invited Cadets or Royal Artillery Association (veterans) would be static in the town centre. Following the Parade to the Town Hall there would be a brief ceremony and march past/salute followed by a Civic Reception for invited guests.

3.3 If Council decides to support the request the time of the Civic Reception and associated invitation list is a matter for Council to define.

#### 4.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Council considers its support for the request from 206 (Ulster) Battery Royal Artillery to hold a Freedom Parade in Coleraine on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May and host a Civic Reception following the Parade.