

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

10.00am, Friday, 27 May 2016

Proposed Battle of the Somme Centenary Commemoration Parade – 1 July 2016

Item number	5.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	City Centre (Ward 11)

Executive summary

The City of Edinburgh Council has been notified of a parade which is proposed to take place on 1 July 2016.

The Council has limited powers in respect of marches. It can take no action and the march would proceed as the organisers intend. Alternatively it has the power to attach conditions or, under limited circumstances, to ban the march. The Committee needs to decide whether to exercise any of these options.

It is planned that the event will use the High Street. At its meeting of 17 November 2014, the Regulatory Committee decided that marches involving the High Street must be submitted for Committee approval.

Links

Coalition pledges	N/A
Council priorities	N/A
Single Outcome Agreement	N/A

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Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 makes an order in respect of the proposed march, imposing conditions attached at Appendix 5.

Background

- 2.1 Under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, anyone organising a procession in Scotland must notify the appropriate local authority and the police at least 28 days prior to the date of the event.
- 2.2 The City of Edinburgh Council has been notified of intent to hold a parade on 1 July commemorating the Battle of the Somme (see Appendix 1)
- 2.3 The Council has limited powers available regarding the control of such events. These powers should only normally be exercised to prevent public disorder, risk to public safety, damage to property or excessive disruption to the life of the community. [Download the Scottish Government Guidance to local authorities on marches and parades.](#)

Main report

- 3.1 The notification forms relevant to the march are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The locations or routes proposed for this event include the High Street.
- 3.3 The proposed route is Middle Meadow Walk, Forrest Road, George IV Bridge, High Street, Canongate, Abbeyhill, Abbeymount, dispersing at Regent Road.
- 3.4 The recommended conditions (Appendix 5) are sufficient to mitigate any disruption to the community. EPOG meetings (Appendix 3a & 3b) and further discussions to amend the route (Appendix 4) have taken place.
- 3.5 A representative will be invited to address the Committee regarding the proposed procession.

Measures of success

- 4.1 That the Council discharges its statutory duties in respect of these notifications.
- 4.2 That any parade is facilitated wherever possible and is managed in a way that minimises potential disruption to the life of the community.

Financial impact

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.
- 5.2 Council resources may need to be deployed on the day, in particular with respect to any road closures.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Should the Committee decide to restrict or prohibit the procession, the persons proposing to hold the procession may appeal against that decision to the Sheriff Court within 14 days of written reasons being received by them.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 In coming to a decision, the Committee will have to consider the rights of the procession organisers to stage their procession, and the Council's duty to foster good relations and ensure the protection of public order and safety. These must be discharged against the relevant statutory duties.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There may be some short term environmental impact arising from any agreed procession:
 - The proposed routes cross public roads, though arrangements will be made to mitigate any disruption caused.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Statutory consultation has taken place regarding the event.

Background reading / external references

[Report to Regulatory Committee 24 July 2013](#)

Scottish Government guidance - [Review of parades and marches in Scotland \(2006\)](#)

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Links

Coalition pledges	N/A
Council outcomes	N/A
Single Outcome Agreement	N/A
Appendices	Appendix 1: Battle of the Somme parade notification; Appendix 2: Letter from Police Scotland dated 30 November 2015 Appendix 3a: EPOG notes (20 Jan 2016) Appendix 3b: EPOG notes (3 May 2016) Appendix 4: Confirmation of amended route Appendix 5: Recommended conditions