



Title of meeting:	Cabinet Decision
Date of meeting:	22 March 2022
Subject:	Falklands 40 th Anniversary and Armed Forces Day Events
Report by:	Director of Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Affairs
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

To provide Cabinet with an update on current proposals for events and projects as part of Portsmouth's Armed Forces support with commemorations for the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and Armed Forces Day in 2022

2. Recommendations

- a. To continue to engage with stakeholders about plans for 2022.
- b. To develop a programme of events and activities that puts Portsmouth at the centre of the Falklands commemorations in 2022.
- c. To confer Freedom of the City to:
 - i. Falklands Veterans
 - ii. Royal Naval Association
 - iii. Association of Wrens
 - iv. Royal Marines Association
- d. To note that budget provision has been set aside for these events.

3. Background

Portsmouth aspires to be at the heart of key national events during the commemoration of the Falkland's 40th anniversary and 2022-Armed Forces Day events.

Portsmouth is the home of the Royal Navy and in 1982, a Task Force was sent to the Falklands after the islands were unlawfully invaded and occupied by Argentina. Despite the many attempts by the UN and the USA there was no resolution and conflict followed. During the conflict which lasted on 6 weeks, 255 British and 649 Argentinian Armed Forces were killed together with the civilian. As with most conflicts, there is little hostility between the veterans of



both countries and our objective is not to celebrate but to commemorate those lives lost in 1982 and the bravery of during the conflict.

Veterans' Day, as it was called, was created as a permanent extension of Veterans' Awareness Week first held in 2005. This focuses on celebrating those who have or are currently serving including reserves, veterans and their families and is now known as **Armed Forces Day (AFD)** and Portsmouth has been at the forefront since the outset, honouring those who are still alive but always remembering those who feel and keeping Remembrance Sunday for honouring the dead

4. **Working group**

Falklands 40th Anniversary

A working group was set up in August 2021, which included the Leader of PCC, representatives of Falklands veterans organisation, PCC Media and other interested parties. Initially this was chaired by the Leader to ensure all those who should be consulted are included. A presentation of a scoping document (Appendix 1) was made for a memorial service, and March past on 19th June 2022 was supported by the working group and this became the foundation for the event. At subsequent meetings the Freedom of the City was discussed for the organisations in the Recommendations above to be taken forward to full council, the following groups

Armed Forces Day

A working group was set up in September 2021, which included representatives from the Naval Base Property Trust (NBPT), NMRN, Trustees of NBPT and PHD media and PCC lead officers. With the approval of Commodore of the Naval Base (COB), the event would be held in the Historic Naval Base and would be a festival to honour Serving Members of the Forces, Reservists, Veterans and their families and a scoping document was accepted as the foundation for the event (Appendix 2). Subsequent meetings have taken place, and a face-to-face meeting was held with the COB, the Leader PCC Trustee of NBPT and PCC lead officer. The meeting discussed mini-Navy Days where a ship could be open to the public and it was agreed to take this proposal forward and for the Leader PCC to write to COB formally requesting the use of the Naval Base and having a ship available for public access.

5. **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Attached

6. **Legal implications**

Not required for this report

7. Director of Finance's comments

The estimated cost of these events is as follows:

Armed Forces Day £67,200

Falklands 40 £33,100

These costs may reduce if requests made for external contributions are successful.

Provision has been included in the 2022/23 revenue budget for these events.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Appendix 1 F40 scoping paper	Included with the report
Appendix 2 AFD scoping paper	Included with the report
Appendix 3 F40 Commemorations budget	Included with the report
Appendix 4 AFD budget	Included with the report
Integrated Impact Assessment	Included with the report

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: