

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING - 28 FEBRUARY 2008

**APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATION - LOWLAND RESERVE FORCES'
AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION**

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Council to consider the appointment of an Elected Member to the Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE ORGANISATION

- 2.1 The Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for the Lowlands of Scotland is a public body, established by statute, to provide advice and support to the Defence Council on behalf of the Reserve Forces and Cadet Movement in the area. This role involves a range of responsibilities in support of the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marine Reserve, Territorial Army, Royal Auxiliary Air Force and three Cadet Forces (Sea, Army and Air).
- 2.2 In addition, the Association has a key task of liaison with Local Authorities and employers and promotes the interests of the Volunteer Reserves and Cadets within society in general. Further background information from the Association is shown in Appendix 1 to this report.

3. REQUEST TO APPOINT AN ELECTED MEMBER FROM EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 3.1 Within the Scheme of Association there are a number of membership places allocated to representative members, including representatives of Local Authorities. The scheme limits Local Authority representation to six Councillors and the Association has, in the past, focussed that allocation across the six Council areas containing the highest concentration of Reserve or Cadet Force Units. The Chairman and the Association Board acknowledge this is unsatisfactory as it denies appropriate, important representation from the remaining Local Authorities in the Lowlands of Scotland, the majority of which have significant numbers of volunteers and cadets who provide a valuable contribution to their communities. The Association Board therefore seeks to redress this situation and has requested East Ayrshire Council to appoint an Elected Member to become a member of the Association.
- 3.2 For further background there are some six cadet units in the East Ayrshire area - Dalmellington, Kilmarnock (3), Stewarton and Auchinleck.

4. POLICY/FINANCIAL/COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The Association has been asked to confirm that appropriate public liability/directors and officers indemnity/fidelity insurance is in place and that such insurance is adequate and covers the extent of the relevant risks involved in Members being appointed to the organisation.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Council:-

- (i) appoint an Elected Member to the Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

JMcG/SC
11 February 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 23 January 2008 from the Chief Executive of the Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Julie McGarry, Administration Manager on Tel No (01563) 576147. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Julie McGarry, Administration Manager

APPENDIX 1

LOWLAND RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION - BACKGROUND BRIEF

ROLES

Within the role above, the Association has two main functions. The first is business outputs in direct support of Volunteer Reserve Force Units and Cadet organisations. In outline:-

- Support to Recruiting - principally advice on regional and local marketing and advertising in support of TA recruiting; however, we make our expertise and advice available to all units and the cadet organisations. We also market the Army Cadet Force and do PR across the field.
- Employer Support - our tri-Service responsibilities are to generate support for the Volunteer Reserves amongst the employer community, and to assist units and reservists managing their relationship with employers. This includes assisting with specific casework that might arise, possibly during a period of mobilisation. The employer gains much from an employee who gains additional skills, management qualifications and leadership experience through their training. However, the employer may need assistance in managing during periods when the reservist may be called for mobilised service. Given the extensive use being made of reserves from all Services in support of enduring operations, this is a key output.
- Administration of the Army Cadet Force - this is very much Army focussed, however, Chief Executive Lowland RCFA chairs the Scottish Tri-Service Cadet Forum which seeks to improve co-operation between the three Cadet Organisations in Scotland and to address issues of common interest. Allied with this cadet role, we have an emerging task as co-ordinator for MOD youth initiatives in our area. This involves liaison with Local Authorities, youth bodies, Prince's Trust, SKILLFORCE and the like. Cadets gain a wide variety of skills and personal development activities that help to focus their energies and to prepare for whatever career path they may choose in later life. This includes Duke of Edinburgh Award, BTEC, communication skills, working as a team, leadership, confidence and a host of other "soft skills" that are so valued by future employers and indeed society at large.
- Works and Building Services across the Reserve and Cadet Estates - this function is a major output and is again Tri-Service. In all we manage over 150 properties, large and small, across the Lowlands and are responsible for their construction, maintenance and ensuring that they remain fit for purpose. Many of our properties are used by other voluntary organisation, eg the Scouting Movement.

These tasks are executed by the Secretariat staff in Lowland House, Glasgow, overseen by the Association Board, chaired by Group Captain Bob Kemp. The hierarchy above that comprises the President, David Younger Lord Lieutenant of the

Tweeddale, and he is assisted by his Vice Presidents who are the remaining 13 Lord Lieutenants of the Lowlands, including the Lord Provosts of the Cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The second primary function of the Association is that of promoting the Volunteer Reserve Forces and Cadet Forces across the region. This is achieved through a broad Association membership mainly comprising a Tri-Service spread of ex officio members (all serving in command of volunteer reserve or cadet units) and a wide range of Selected Member. In addition, some 15% of the membership is made up of supportive Local Authority Councillors, educationalists, employers and employees (currently Trade Union Officials). Liaison with Local Authorities is particularly important to us.

COMMITMENT

In terms of organisation of our 200(+) members, the Association membership is split into Area Committees (Lothian and Strathclyde) which currently meet on a six-monthly basis to be kept abreast of reserve and cadet matters in general and any particular emerging issues of importance. The Area Committees usually meet in May and October and there is an Annual Association Meeting (our AGM) which takes place in March. Meetings are held in the evening and last around 90 minutes followed by a supper afterwards. Representative Members attend the Area Committee meeting in the area best aligned with interests, be it Lothian or Strathclyde, and the Annual Association Meeting alternates between Edinburgh and Glasgow. We also have periodic newsletters and a formal Annual Report and Accounts through which we keep members abreast of our work. Full Members have voting rights in the Association and the term of membership is normally five years, extendable by mutual agreement. As a public body, we are required to follow the guidance and principles of public life as given by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

In addition to asking members to attend meetings, we regularly seek their views as they act as an important sounding board for opinion. Furthermore, we ask that members promote the Volunteer Reserve Forces and Cadet Organisations within their own spheres of influence in the manner in which the member feels most comfortable. Members may be asked from time to time to serve on one of our Sub-Committees (eg Employer Support) or to sit on the Board.

Our Representative Members are key to us maintaining effective links with society and the Local Authority Councillors who support us very much encourage a two-way flow of information. Employers too provide valued input and we have a specific Group that ensure that we are kept abreast of employer opinions and pressures.