



Report of the Head of Arts and Events

Executive Board

Date:

Subject: Deputation to Council regarding St. George's Day

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Leeds Branch of the Royal Society of St. George made a deputation to Council on 18th April 2007 to highlight the St. George's Day event in Morley on 22nd April and to seek financial aid to enable to Society to continue to stage the event in future years, in addition to asking for support in the campaign to designate St. George's Day as a national holiday.
 - 1.0 **Purpose Of This Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend the Council's response to the celebration of St George's Day in Leeds.
 - 2.0 **Background Information**
 - 2.1 The speech given by Councillor Joe Tetley , Chairman of the Royal Society of St. George is attached at Appendix A.
 - 2.2 The Leeds Branch of the Royal Society of St. George has staged the St. George's Day Parade and Festival in Morley for a number of years and it is now recognised as the premier event of its kind in the north of England.
 - 2.3 The event is free and is open to all who wish to celebrate St. George's Day. This year, the Parade marched from Morley Town Hall to the sports field and included the 168 City of Leeds Squadron Air Cadet Band, Naval, Army and Air Cadets and

Morley's Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. Also, the Sealed Knot and the Earl of Manchester's Regiment, together with Roman Legionaires, Saxon and Victorian Military Societies marched in the Parade. There were also craft stalls, Morris dancing, archery and strong man competitions, a falconry display and a Civil War re-enactment.

2.4 The Parade and Festival were both very well attended and the event was again judged a success.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 It has only been possible to hold the event this year due to financial support from various Members, Morley Town Council, South Leeds Area Management Committee, the Arise Initiative and Celebrate Leeds 2007.

3.2 There is considerable support to encourage the celebration of St. George's Day across the whole city.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 There are no implications for council policy and governance.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 There are potential implications in terms of funding and officer resources.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The celebration of St. George's Day is an increasingly popular event and can encourage community cohesion by enabling people throughout the city to take part.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The report recommends that Executive Board request officers to prepare a report outlining proposals for the celebration of St. George's Day in Leeds in 2008 and to respond to the Royal Society of St. George confirming the Council's support for St. George's Day.