

This Report will be made public on 10 March 2020

Report Number **C/19/71**

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 18 March 2020  
**Status:** Non- key Decision  
**Head of Service:** Katharine Harvey, Chief Economic Development Officer  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Wimble– Cabinet Member for District Economy

**SUBJECT:** Funding for 2020 Folkestone RAF Air Display

**SUMMARY:**

This report requests £30,000 for a funding contribution to Folkestone Town Council towards the cost of an RAF Air Display in Folkestone, as part of the Armed Forces Day celebrations.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because a funding contribution from the District Council is required for the RAF Air Display to go ahead in June 2020.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. To receive and note report C/19/71.
2. To agree to a funding contribution of £30,000 towards the cost of an RAF Air Display in June 2020.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Folkestone Town Council have been liaising with the RAF to organise an air display in Folkestone on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020, as part of the Armed Forces Day.
- 1.2 Over the last 4 years Folkestone has hosted an RAF Air Display. These have been considered to be a success, attracting considerable numbers of visitors to the town.
- 1.3 The Armed Forces Day is an annual event which Folkestone Town Council has organised for a number of years. Last year the RAF Air Display was held on the same day and this was very successful with some estimated 45,000 visitors enjoying the event
- 1.4 It is estimated that the cost of the RAFAT (Royal Air Force Aerial Team) air display this year will be considerably higher than last year at £80,000. This is due to additional security measures as required by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG), which is chaired by FHDC's Corporate Health & Safety Officer, Derrick Miller. This is following the success of last year's event and the high number of visitors.
- 1.5 Folkestone Town Council will lead on this event and has earmarked £22,800 and dedicated officer time towards this. Therefore without significant match funding they will not be able to accommodate an event with an air display like last year.
- 1.6 Folkestone Town Council has estimated that this years Armed Forces Day will attract 60,000 to 65,000 visitors. This highlights the importance of these types of event to the local economy and their contribution to the visitor economy in particular. Published figures from Visit Kent demonstrate the importance of the tourism sector within the district's economy, with some 4.2 million day visitors coming to the district in 2017, generating £122.9 million for the local economy, with the average spend per day visitor £30.
- 1.7 An event such as this attracts significant visitor income into the local economy and adds to the current visitor offer of Folkestone. This serves to enhance the town's attractiveness as a visitor destination by providing a clear reason for visitors to come to Folkestone during the summer and experience our great destination offer.
- 1.8 The Cabinet is requested to agree to a £30,000 funding contribution to Folkestone Town Council towards the 2020 RAF Air Display. If circumstances dictate that the event is required to be cancelled or postponed, then appropriate arrangements will be included in the contract with FTC to safeguard the expenditure of F&H DC funds. It is recognised that some costs may be incurred and the intention would be for those to be incurred proportionally with other funders.

## **2. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

### **2.1**

Perceived risk	Seriousness	Likelihood	Preventative action
The opportunity to hold a substantial Armed Forces Day and Air Display event is lost for Folkestone	High – the opportunity to attract substantial numbers of visitors into the town and the resulting income generated is lost; Visitors are disappointed by the absence of an air display; Council’s reputation suffers by an unwillingness to contribute to an event welcomed by many residents.	Low	FHDC agrees to make a £30,000 contribution to enable a RAF Air Display as part of Armed Forces Day
The Air Display event is not organized to the appropriate standard	High – there could be substantial reputational damage to the district council as financial contributors, if the organization of this event is sub standard.	Low	<p>FTC is ensuring the effective coordination of the Air Display and Armed Forces Day events through regular meetings with the Air Display organizer and the SAG.</p> <p>All parties are clear about their responsibilities for the events, including the EventsApp submission requirements and deadline dates</p>

### 3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

#### 3.1 Legal Officer’s Comments (DK)

Subject to Legal Services (a) having had sight of and approving the contract due to be entered into between Folkestone Town Council and the RAF and (b) agreeing to the text of the grant funding agreement due to be entered into between the Council and Folkestone Town Council, there are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

### **3.2 Finance Officer's Comments (LH)**

Within the approved Budget for 2019/20 there is £22,000 that has been allocated for the Folkestone Air Display.

### **3.3 Communication Officer's Comments (MR)**

The Air Display is a flagship event in the Folkestone calendar and one which draws enthusiasm from the local population as well as visitors from outside of the district. This funding will enable a 1-hour display which will encourage more visitors and enhance their experience.

### **3.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications**

There are no diversities and equalities implications

## **4. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

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