

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Corporate Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 January 2026</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Approval</b>
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	<b>No</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£1,600
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	No
Code	TBC
Staffing Costs	Yes

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>No</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>No</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to consider representation at the Somme Association services in France to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme on 01 July 2026.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1** In June 2024, Council agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would represent Council at the annual Somme Association services (outlined below) and that, in the event of either being unable to attend, a replacement would be chosen via a ballot of any members wishing to attend. It was further agreed that this process would be applied annually for the four year Council term.

10:30 RBL Somme Branch Commemoration Service, Thiepval Memorial (optional)

14:30 Ulster Memorial Tower, Thiepval

16:30 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division Memorial, Guillemont

- 2.2** This decision does not provide for the two Elected Members who are nominated to the Somme Association for the Council term to attend the trip which Members may wish to review. Indicative costs for trip are likely to be £750-£800 pp (approx).

## **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1** It is recommended that Members consider whether the two Somme Association representatives should be permitted to accompany the Mayor/Deputy Mayor (or their replacement) on the Somme trip once during the Council term.
- 3.2** It is further recommended that, given that this is being considered retrospectively in the final year of the Council term, Members consider whether both representatives should be permitted to attend in July 2026, should they wish.
- 4.0** A further report for the next Council term be presented to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee after the Local Government Election and AGM in 2027.