

Title of Report:	Armed Forces Day 2026
Committee Report Submitted To:	Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee
Date of Meeting:	03 September 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	June 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	TBC
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO Estimates 2026/27
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	3106
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations			
Input of Legal Services Required		YES/NO	
Legal Opinion Obtained		YES/NO	
Screening Requirements	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	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the preparations for Armed Forces Day 2026.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the Council Meeting on 5th December 2023 Council resolved to agree the following Notice of Motion:

“I call upon this council to submit an application to host Armed Forces Day 2026. This significant event is a great opportunity to show our support and give thanks to our military personnel and families both past and present including our veterans and cadets.

This event will attract thousands of visitors to our Beautiful Borough, supporting our local traders and tourism providers.”

3.0 Draft Armed Forces Day Programme

- 3.1 Officers are now working towards preparing a programme of activity. The initial Draft Armed Forces Day Programme is at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Armed Forces Day 2026 will take place on Saturday 20 June 2026 which is the week before the rest of UK. This will allow us to maximise assets that might be used in other parts of the UK were it to be held on the same day.
- 3.3 The Programme will be similar to the previous event held in 2018 and will be updated as and when activities have been agreed.
- 3.4 Director of Corporate Services attended the Ards and North Down (AND) Airshow in June, and has subsequently met with the lead in AND following a post event evaluation.
- 3.5 Head of Tourism and Events will present a report to Leisure and Development Committee in September, to ask Elected Members to consider if Council wish to proceed with planning and delivery of the Northern Ireland International Airshow in 2026.

In addition, Elected Members will be asked to assess options presented for a standalone delivery of the Air Show, or delivery in tandem with Armed Forces Day 2026.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 A budget should be agreed to progress with activities associated with Armed Forces Day 2026.
- 4.2 Although a budget of £40,000 was set aside for 2025/26 to cover activities planned for by this Sub-Committee, it is anticipated that the majority of the spend associated with Armed Forces Day 2026 will be incurred in the 2026/27 financial year and should be factored into the Estimates for that year. Estimated budget at this stage is £100K

5.0 Equality Implications

- 5.1 The Armed Forces Day Programme will be screened in accordance with the Council's Policies and Procedures.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 **It is recommended** that Sub-Committee note the update, and work continues by Officers across Council Departments to agree activities and to research costs and methods of delivery.

Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee

Draft Armed Forces Day Programme 2026

	The role of the Sub Committee is to act as an advisory group, supporting the development of a proposed programme of activity to recognise commemorative and celebratory occasions. To identify resource requirements to deliver an agreed programme of activity <i>and commemoration</i> ; • To share best practice in terms of wider initiatives and approaches; • To promote co-ordination and collaboration in terms of delivery of a range of activity, avoiding duplication of effort.		
What	Details	Responsible	Estimated Cost
Notice of Motion (Two) <i>“I call upon this council to submit an application to host Armed Forces Day 2026. This significant event is a great opportunity to show our support and give thanks to our military personnel and families both past and present including our veterans and cadets.</i> <i>This event will attract thousands of visitors to our Beautiful Borough, supporting our local traders and tourism providers.”</i>	It has been agreed that Armed Forces Day 2026 will be hosted by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. Talks are ongoing with the Chief Executive of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland Official acceptance has now been received (11th December)		

	The Sub-Committee will be updated at a future meeting.		
Date for Armed Forces Day 2026	At this point, it is thought that Armed Forces Day 2026 will take place on Saturday 20 June 2026 which is the week before the rest of UK. This will allow us to maximise assets that might be used in other parts of the UK were it to be held on the same day.		