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## **ESSEX YEOMANRY AND ESSEX REGIMENT MUSEUM APPEAL**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to gain a decision as to whether or not the Council should make a donation to the above appeal.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 For the past 35 years, the Essex Regiment Museum has been located within and operated as part of Chelmsford Museum in Oaklands Park, Chelmsford – a partnership which has proved to be successful in increasing accessibility and awareness for the public.
- 2.2 Chelmsford Borough Council has now decided to develop Oaklands Park in a manner that will increase display space, provide completely new accommodation for the Essex Regiment Museum and also enable, for the first time, the Essex Yeomanry Collection to be put on public display. It is anticipated that this will significantly enhance the “offer” to visitors and help preserve this part of our heritage for future generations.
- 2.3 Chelmsford has asked the Trustees of the Essex Yeomanry Collection and the Essex Regiment Museum to raise the sum of £125,000 as their contribution to towards the costs of the development, for which the Trustees have now launched a joint appeal to seek donations.
- 2.4 The Council has recently received a letter sent to a range of organisations / benefactors, requesting their support in terms of a financial contribution towards the project. At present, in excess of £30,000 has been pledged.
- 2.5 Members are asked to consider whether or not they wish to make a financial contribution to this appeal, and if so, what level of contribution this should be. If Members are minded to make a contribution, it would have to be taken from a particular budget heading, such as the £10,000 funding that was agreed in the 2008/9 budget for the development of heritage projects. However, any funding taken from this budget would obviously impact on what we are able to achieve in our own district.

### **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 If Members agree to make a financial contribution to the museum appeal, then this amount will be taken from an identified 2008/9 budget but will impact on the level of provision possible from the remainder of the budget.

**4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Board **RESOLVES** to consider whether or not to make a financial donation towards the Essex Yeomanry and Essex Regiment Museum Appeal.

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**Background Papers:-**

None

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