

September 2022

Dear Leader,

We are writing to seek your continued support and assistance in ensuring that the nation faces as few obstacles as possible in the organisation and delivery of Remembrance parades and services.

Services of Remembrance continue to resonate with the nation, allowing local communities up and down the country the chance to reflect on the service and sacrifice of the many men and women from their own villages, towns and cities who have served in HM Armed Forces, or who have supported or lost someone who has.

We know that councils take their responsibilities for organising and supporting Remembrance events and parades very seriously, and many have strong relationships with their local Royal British Legion (RBL) branches, and other Armed Forces charities. Thank you for this work.

RBL branches and volunteers are proud to play an active part in Remembrance services and parades every year and are only too happy to support councils in their planning for such important community events. However, every year several RBL branches report they are being asked to bear the costs of and responsibility for road closures and policing, and are unable to meet these demands. The complexity of Health & Safety and Road Traffic legislation is challenging for volunteers to navigate given the scale of many Remembrance parade routes. Furthermore, RBL must focus its charitable funds on its vital welfare work, particularly as veterans face the new cost of living challenges

As a result, whilst RBL branches can support councils in their planning of local Remembrance services and parade routes, we remind you that they are unable to assume responsibility for the design or delivery of the latter, including the organisation of Temporary Traffic Management Orders (TTMOs), the contracting of traffic management services, or the provision of such services by volunteers.

Whilst we recognise that council budgets are facing pressures, these important civic occasions are a cost-effective way of bringing the whole community together in a collective moment of reflection, thanksgiving and togetherness, a view we have no doubt many of your local residents will share. Small gestures such as the waiving of fees for closing roads, providing street signage, and coordinating routes can make a real difference to whether these events can or cannot take place. We understand that this may mean a shift of resources in terms of how you have traditionally supported Remembrance services and parades, as well as a need for collaboration between councils in two-tier or three-tier areas.

For their part, RBL branches are very willing to assist in the organisation of local Remembrance parades and services, for instance through the provision of Standard Bearers or the identification of local veterans, but responsibility for both their funding and delivery rests with civic authorities. We know you will rise to the occasion, as you so often have done before.

We sincerely hope that your council will continue to enable the local community to remember its fallen, without seeking to impose charges on the RBL charity, and look forward to the continued observance of this time-honoured tradition. If you would like to discuss any issues arising from this, your local RBL branch will be happy to help; or to reach us please contact ian.leete@local.gov.uk, bholborn@britishlegion.org.uk or justin.griggs@nalc.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,




Charles Byrne
Director General

The Royal British Legion
199 Borough High Street
London SE1 1AA



Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Chair, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London. SW1P 3HZ



Councillor Mike Drew
Vice Chair (member services)
National Association for Local Councils

109 Great Russell Street, London
WC1B 3LD



rbl.org.uk

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Registered Charity Number: 219279.

Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA

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