

1. **GRANTING OF THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY:
CHRISTCHURCH AIR TRAINING CORPS SQUADRONS 17, 18 AND 38**

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the activities of the Air Training Corps in Christchurch.

BACKGROUND

Prior to 1971 the Air Training Corps was part of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Since then, cadet forces have been formed around the country, and are now part of the New Zealand Cadet Forces. They teach leadership training and teamwork and are authorised by the Ministry of Defence. They do not, however, get any direct funding, but are supplied with uniforms and training programmes.

Until its closure, the RNZAF Base Wigram held the City of Christchurch Charter, which was granted to it by this Council in 1957. The only air force-type presence there now is three squadrons of the Air Training Corps. Details of these squadrons are as follows:

- No 17 (City of Christchurch) Sqn ATC
- No 18 (Avon) Sqn ATC
- No 38 (Waimairi) Sqn ATC

They have formed a charitable trust and have purchased a building at Wigram to enable them to stay on base.

AIR TRAINING CORPS ACTIVITIES

The Air Training Corps caters for about 240 young people between the ages of 13 and 18, and has as its priority the teaching of leadership skills, teamwork and self-discipline. The cadets are encouraged to extend themselves both mentally and physically through a planned training programme. Apart from aviation, which of course forms a large part of the programme, the cadets learn first aid, bushcraft and survival skills, cooking, clothing care and care of their environment.

These are motivated young people who will be the leaders of tomorrow. They come from every ethnic and socio-economic group in the city and are a credit to themselves and their community.

Because they are the only air force presence now at Wigram, they would like to take up the City Charter which was originally held by Base Wigram. The City Charter gives them the right and privilege, once a year, to march with colours and banners through the streets of the City and to have all ranks inspected by the Mayor on that occasion.

On Sunday 2 September 2001 the Air Training Corps will hold their 60th anniversary parade, which will be attended by about 400 young people and their families, and will be inspected by Mayor Garry Moore. The desire is to have the City Charter presented to the Air Training Corps squadrons at this time by the Mayor.

The Chief of Defence Force has given written approval for the proposed Charter to be given, and the wording of the Charter, as provided, to be used.

The day chosen for the annual Charter Parade will be decided annually, with three months notice being given to the Council.

Recommendation: That the Air Training Corps be granted the Freedom of the City of Christchurch, and that the Air Training Corps be commended for their support of the development of young people in the city.