

Summons to attend meeting of Full Council



Extraordinary Full Council

Date: Tuesday, 14 March 2023

Time: 4.45 pm

Venue: The Council Chamber - City Hall, College Green,
Bristol, BS1 5TR

To: All Members of Council

Issued by: Oliver Harrison, Democratic Services

City Hall, PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE

Tel: 0117 3526162

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Friday, 3 March 2023



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest from the Councillors. They are asked to indicate the relevant agenda item, the nature of the interest and in particular whether it is a **disclosable pecuniary interest**.

Any declarations of interest made at the meeting which is not on the register of interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion.

4. Freedom of the City - HMS Prince of Wales

Recommendation

(Pages 3 - 6)

To award Freedom of the City (Military) to His Majesty's Ship (HMS) Prince of Wales (PWLS) who is affiliated with the City and County of Bristol.

Signed



Proper Officer
Friday, 3 March 2023



Extraordinary Full Council

Tuesday 14 March 2023



Report of: Tim O’Gara, Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Freedom of the City (Military), HMS Prince of Wales

Ward: Citywide

Member Presenting Report: Cllr Paula O’Rourke, Lord Mayor

Recommendation

To award Freedom of the City (Military) to His Majesty’s Ship (HMS) Prince of Wales (PWLS) who is affiliated with the City and County of Bristol.

Summary

Members are asked to award Freedom of the City to HMS Prince of Wales, permitting the Ship’s company to exercise their Freedom in Bristol with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed. The honour is bestowed in recognition of service and the unique relationship to Bristol through affiliation.

Awarding Freedom re-affirms the Council’s commitment to the affiliation that is in place with the Ship. It also demonstrates the Council’s continued support of the Armed Forces Community Covenant and Bristol’s armed forces community.

The significant issues in the report are:

The reasons for awarding Freedom of the City to HMS Prince of Wales are set out in Appendix A.



Consultation

1. **Internal**
The Mayor and Party Group Leaders support this proposal.
2. **External**
N/A

Context

The Freedom of the City (Military) is awarded to units in recognition of service and a relationship with the city.

Other Options Considered

3. None.

Risk Assessment

4. There are no risks associated with the proposal.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

8b) N/A

Legal and Resource Implications

A local authority is entitled to confer freedom of the city upon ‘persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area’ (s.249(5) Local Government Act 1972).

Legal advice provided by Nancy Rollason, Head of Legal Services.

Financial

(a) Revenue

There are no revenue costs associated with this proposal.

(b) Capital

There are no capital costs associated with this proposal.

Land

There are no land matters associated with this proposal.

Personnel

Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A - Citation for HMS Prince of Wales (PWLS)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

Citation for HMS Prince of Wales, Freedom of the City (Military)

Freedom of the City is held by the following military units:

1. Gloucestershire Regiment (1958)
2. HMS Bristol (1974)
3. HMS Flying Fox (2002)
4. Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (2002)
5. The Rifles (2008)
6. 57 (City and County of Bristol) Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals (Volunteers) (2009)
7. 266 (Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery) Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers) (2009)
8. 39 Signal Regiment (2020)

- The Freedom of the City, in military terms, is an honour conferred by a local authority upon a military unit, which grants that unit the privilege of marching into the city "with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed".
- The City and County of Bristol has been affiliated with HMS Prince of Wales (PWLS) since 2016, an honour shared with Liverpool, and it's a relationship that will last for 50 years. The affiliation was accepted by the City Council.
- PWLS is a fifth-generation aircraft carrier and its role includes disaster relief, humanitarian aid and diplomacy. In Autumn 2022, PWLS was due to conduct important sea trials and work closely with the USA, as part of Westlant 22 (USA East Coast). Unfortunately urgent engineering work prevented this and PWLS now prepares for deployment from Portsmouth for Westlant 23, a similar programme outline to 2022. This supports preparations for 2024, where PWLS will take over from HMS Queen Elizabeth as the UK's Very High Readiness Strike Carrier. The Ship's Company (crew) has representatives from across the UK and Commonwealth.
- Bristol related activities with the Ship are managed and overseen by the HMS Prince of Wales Affiliation Board. The Board is led by HM Lord Lieutenant as president and made up of business representatives and other organisations, including Cllr Helen Holland as the City Council's Armed Forces Champion.
- Several visits have taken place to the Ship by members of the Board over the last few years and there are plans to build relationships with local schools to promote STEM and sport.
- The Affiliation Board has worked with the Ship to decorate it's Bristol Suite (there's also a Liverpool Suite), and the Ship's Crest is displayed City Hall. Representatives of the Ship's company support Bristol's Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service and the White Ensign has been blessed by Bristol Cathedral and laid up to mark the affiliation.
- If awarded Freedom of the City, the Ships Company will exercise their Freedom by way of a parade in Summer 2023