

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