

Item

HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY



To:

Civic Affairs Committee 13/05/2024

Report by:

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Wards affected:

None

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report details the recommending of granting Honorary Freedom of the City status. This is being presented to committee to endorse this proposal to the Annual Council Meeting on 23 May 2024.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is requested to recommend that Council confer the Honorary Freedom of the City of Cambridge upon HMS Protector. (Nb. Granting the Freedom of the City will require at least two thirds of the Councillors present to agree to the recommendation).

3. Background

- 3.1 At a meeting of Cambridge City full council on 21st July 2011 it was agreed that an affiliation should be created between the City of Cambridge and HMS Protector. It records our desire to establish a 'Strong and enduring relationship between Cambridge and HMS Protector'.
- 3.2 Supporting the work of the Scot-Polar Institute based in Lensfield Road, and British Antarctic Survey based in Maddingley Road

Cambridge, HMS Protector is on a continuing mission to support international research into wildlife, the changing climate and shifting waters of Antarctica and upholding the UK's long-standing commitment to the region. HMS Protector has the capacity to break through thick ice and provide vital support to those caught up in earth's most challenging conditions. She carries on board 4 working craft, 2 cranes and a helicopter deck. With a full compliment of 88 although accommodation for 100 if required.

- 3.3 The BAS is based here in Cambridge, as is the Scot-Polar Institute. The Council has already declared 'A strong and enduring relationship' with HMS Protector and have declared a climate emergency.
- 3.4 HMS Protector is the Royal Navy's only Ice Patrol Ship. Built in Norway in mid-2000 and served under her flag before being in service in the UK from 2011 she was purchased by the British Ministry of Defence in early September 2013.
- 3.5 By virtue of the Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act 1885, and by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009), the highest honour that a Council can bestow is the Honorary Freedom of a town or city. It is granted on "persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City, Borough or Royal Borough". An Honorary Freedom carries with it no special privileges – it is purely an honorary title.
- 3.6 The last time Cambridge City Council awarded an Honorary Freedom was in 2011 – to the City of Szeged.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

Any events will need to be designed to be delivered within the available budgets. Officers from the Council will work through any proposals with HMS Protector.

(b) Staffing Implications None

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications None

(d) Environmental Implications None

(e) Procurement Implications not applicable

(f) Community Safety Implications not applicable

5. Consultation and communication considerations

5.1 Consultation has taken place with officers of HMS Protector.

6. Contact

If you have a query on the report please contact Dan Kalley, Democratic Services Manager, tel: 01223 - 457011, email:

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