

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	15 DECEMBER, 2016
TITLE OF REPORT:	FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY TO THE ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE SERVICE
REPORT BY:	HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	TO CONSIDER THE GRANTING OF THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY AND ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2013 the County Council approved the following Notice of Motion:-

“We, the undersigned, request that the Isle of Anglesey County Council grant the Freedom of the County to the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy Association. This is in recognition of keeping sea lanes safe the trade that exists between the United Kingdom and the rest of the World. This granting of the Freedom should be seen as an event to commemorate the Great War of 1914 – 18 and the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic”

2.0 Consultation with the Royal Navy

- 2.1 Following discussion with the office of the First Sea Lord with regard to this matter it is recommended that the Freedom of the County be granted to the Royal Navy Submarine Service in recognition of the historic ties between Ynys Môn and the Royal Navy Submarine Service e.g. the loss of the submarine HMS Thetis near Holyhead in 1939.

2.0 Power to make the decision

- 2.1 The County Council has powers under Section 249 of The Local Government Act, 1972, “to admit to be the honorary freemen of the county or county borough, persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the County or County borough”. The granting of the Freedom of the County to the Royal Navy Submarine Service would mean that the name of the Royal Navy Submarine Service would be placed on the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the County and the Council would confer the right of the Submarine Service to march through the streets of the County on all ceremonial occasions with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.
- 2.2 To confer the Freedom of the County requires particular protocols and procedures and a ceremonial occasion organised to meet certain criteria.

2.3 The following procedures would be necessary:-

A report submitted to a Special Meeting of the Council which recommends that, using its powers under S.249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council should consider offering the Freedom of the County to the Royal Navy Submarine Service. A two thirds majority of the Council is required in order to pass the resolution and uniformed representatives of the Royal Navy Submarine Service would be present in order to accept the offer on behalf of the Royal Navy.

3.0 Armed Forces Day

3.1 In 2018, the Council will be the lead Authority for the Armed Forces Day regional event – a partnership event with the Armed Forces to promote/acknowledge the work of the Armed Forces community. Should the Council resolve to grant the Freedom of the county to the Royal Navy Submarine Service it is recommended that this ceremony takes place as part of the programme for the Armed Forces Day. The Armed Forces Day is scheduled to take place on the 30th June 2018.

3.2 Holyhead has had a close affinity with the Armed Forces over the years and it is fitting that the Regional Armed Forces Day and the Freedom of the County ceremony is held in the town in 2018.

4.0 Revenue Implications

4.1 It will be necessary to report to the Executive in 2017/18 on the revenue implications and associated costs of staging the event in June 2018; those implications are unlikely to be affected to any significant material extent as a result of the Council granting the additional rights described in this report.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Council convenes a special meeting for the purpose of resolving the granting of the Freedom of the County to The Royal Navy Submarine Service. A two thirds majority is required in order to pass the resolution.

5.2 To invite uniformed representatives of the Royal Navy Submarine Service to the special meeting.

Huw Jones
Head of Democratic Services
5/12/16