

## Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 17 December 2015

### HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF SWANSEA TO 215 (CITY OF SWANSEA) SQUADRON

<b>Purpose:</b>	To consider whether to confer the honorary freedom of the City & County of Swansea
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	To bestow the Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea to 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance and Access to Services. Group Leaders and Deputies have also been consulted.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The council confer Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea on 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron in recognition of their 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, long standing relationship with the City and County of Swansea and their community work in support of the Swansea Branch of the Royal British Legion, Remembrance events and the annual Poppy Appeal.
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## 1. Introduction

215 (City of Swansea) Squadron Air Training Cadets is one of the most successful squadrons in the whole of Great Britain and is one of the sixth largest units in the United Kingdom.

The Squadron have undertaken community and voluntary work in support of the Swansea Branch of the Royal British Legion in organising Remembrance events for the last 10 years for the City & County of Swansea. The squadron are expected to raise over £90k this year totalling over £503,000 in the past 12 years.

The squadron celebrates their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and is one of six of the largest squadrons in the UK and have been awarded Best Squadron in Britain 4 times, 3 of which were in the last 10 years.

Not only do they support the Swansea Branch of the Royal British Legion, they support and carry out fundraising and many other activities for many other organisations on a voluntary basis such as:

- Mr X
- Maggie's Cancer Centre
- Cancer Research UK – which awarded the squadron a lifetime achievement award
- RSPCA
- RNLI
- RAFA
- SSAFA
- Collected £11k for the Tsunami appeal
- Flag raising ceremonies for the IPC European Championships
- Supported the WRU Injured Players Charity raising over £60k
- Supports Lord Mayor's Charity appeals with bucket collections
- Armed Forces Day
- VE Day & VJ Day
- 10K Fun Run
- Wales Air Show
- Community transport assistance
- Communities First
- Supports many veteran groups and are a lifetime honorary member of the Normandy Veterans Association.

## 2. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 2.1 Under section 249 of the Local Government Act the Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, admit to be an Honorary Freeman person of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent service to the County.

2.2 In the past similar honours have been bestowed by the Council and its predecessors on The Welsh Guards, The Royal Welsh Regiment (Royal Welch Fusiliers) and its antecedent regiments, HM Coastguard, RNLI, former President Jimmy Carter, the late Lord Callaghan, the late John Charles, HMS Scott, The Archbishop of Canterbury and more recently, 1<sup>st</sup> The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

### **3. Ceremony Arrangements**

3.1 It is proposed that the ceremony will be held at an Extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Swansea in early 2016 with a Freedom March by the squadron.

### **4. Equality and Engagement Implications**

4.1 None.

### **5. Financial Implications**

The cost of the proceedings, including a Freedom Scroll, will be met from the Corporate Promotions budget.

### **6.. Legal Implications**

The power to grant Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea is contained in Section 249 [5] of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** None