



Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 20 December 2018

Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to 157 (Welsh) Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC)

Purpose:	To consider conferring Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to 157 (Welsh) Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC)
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal. Chief Executive & Group Leaders
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea is granted to 157 (Welsh) Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC). 2) A ceremonial council meeting be held on 27 July 2019 to confer the title of Honorary Freedom.
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Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. History

157 (Welsh) Regiment has a special bond which has grown between the people of Swansea and the regiment over many years.

The Regiment's Squadron in Swansea began life HQ 53 (Welsh) Divisional Train Army Service Corps (ASC) whose origins date back to 1912. August 1915 saw the 53rd (Welsh) Division participated in the landings at Gallipoli where it earned praise for its part in supplying ammunition to the 160th Brigade (now HQ Wales). On 1 April 1993, 223 (Welsh) Squadron Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) became 223 Artillery Support Squadron RLC following the formation of the Royal Logistics Corps. After the 198 Strategic Defence Review, 1999 saw 223 Artillery Support Squadron RLC become 223 Transport Squadron RLC.

It was not the only squadron that re-organised. In 2007, 157 (Wales and Midland) Regiment RLC was renamed Welsh Transport Regiment RLC. 223 Squadron then became known as 223 (West Glamorgan) Transport Squadron RLC.

Throughout its history and army re-organisations, Swansea has been a constant support with a strong community base and fully embraces the armed forces community covenant.

Swansea is celebrating its 50th anniversary in July 2019, and subject to your agreement and support, a ceremonial council to confer Honorary Freedom will be convened in 2019 as part of Swansea's anniversary celebrations.

2. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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.

In the past similar honours have been bestowed by the Council and its predecessors on HMS Cambria, 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, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron, Mel Nurse and more recently, Chris Coleman.

3. Ceremony Arrangements

It is proposed that the ceremony will be held at a ceremonial meeting of the Council to be held at the Guildhall, Swansea on 27 July 2019.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

The proposal has no equality implications and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required in this instance.

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