



Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 27 June 2019

Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to Catherine Zeta Jones

Purpose:	To consider conferring Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to Catherine Zeta Jones
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 Catherine Zeta Jones 2) A ceremonial council meeting be held on 24 July 2019 to confer the title of Honorary Freedom.
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Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Biography

Catherine Zeta-Jones CBE is a multi-award winning actress whose talents range from theatre to film.

Born in Swansea, Catherine began her career on the stage in London before becoming a TV star in the popular adaptation of HE Bates' *The Darling Buds of May*.

She won an Academy Award for her portrayal of Velma Kelly in the screen adaptation of the Broadway musical *Chicago*. Catherine was also nominated for

a Golden Globe and won the Critics' Choice Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award and a BAFTA for Best Supporting Actress for her performance.

She won the Tony Award for Lead Actress in a Musical for her critically acclaimed Broadway debut as Desirée Armfeldt in Stephen Sondheim's A Little Night Music.

She earned a Golden Globe nomination for her portrayal of the wife of a drug-runner, in Steven Soderbergh's Traffic.

Catherine recently starred in the Facebook Watch series "Queen America," a dark comedy, centered around the beauty pageant coach Vicki Ellis. And most recently she starred in the telefilm Cocaine Godmother based on the true life story of the notorious drug lord, Griselda Blanco.

Her other starring roles include the films Ocean's 12, The Mask of Zorro, Entrapment and The Terminal.

During her career Catherine has been an ambassador for Swansea and has worked with a number of charities. In 2010, she was awarded a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to the film industry and charity.

She is married to Michael Douglas. They have a son, Dylan, and a daughter, Carys.

Subject to the agreement and support of council, a ceremonial council to confer Honorary Freedom be convened to recognise Catherine Zeta Jones ambassadorial role for Swansea, her services film and charity, as well as celebrating Swansea's 50th anniversary as a city.

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, Chris Coleman, Sir Karl Jenkins MBE, and most recently Alun Wyn Jones.

3. Ceremony Arrangements

A ceremonial Council meeting will take place on at 2pm on 24 July 2019 at the Guildhall.

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 within existing 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