



Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 27 January 2022

Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to Kevin Johns MBE

Purpose:	To consider conferring Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to Kevin Johns MBE
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 Kevin Johns MBE 2) A ceremonial council meeting be convened at a later date to confer the title of Honorary Freedom.
Report Author:	Jo-anne Jones
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Biography

Kevin Johns MBE career has been varied – drama, musicals, stand-up, presenting and pantomime.

He has starred in productions with The Wales Theatre Company, toured with Fleullen Theatre Company performing many leading roles. He also appeared in the National Theatre of Wales Show, The Passion, directed by Michael Sheen, appearing as the MC of The Last Supper and the film version, The Gospel of Us.

He is considered to be one of the best pantomime's top dames and appeared in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in 2021, spending over two decades in pantomime.

On stage, Kevin is one of Wales' most sought after comperes and is very much in demand as a conference and after dinner speaker. He has regularly appeared with the National Chamber Orchestra and has compared with singers such as Russell Watson, Hayley Westenra, Paul Potts and Rebecca Evans.

On the football field, Kevin is also one of Swansea City's well known personalities as a match day announcer and is an ambassador for Swansea wherever he goes.

Kevin was honoured to receive the MBE from Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II for his services to charity. He supports numerous charities appearing at events, fetes and fayres and President and Patron of many Swansea based charities including the Rising Stars Theatre Company, Swansea Male Choir, Friends of Stepping Stones, Cwm Musical Youth and Swansea Theatre History.

Subject to the agreement and support of council, a ceremonial council to confer Honorary Freedom be convened to recognise Kevin Johns MBE ambassadorial role for Swansea, his services to broadcasting, theatre and charity.

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, HMS Scott, 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, The Archbishop of Canterbury, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron, Mel Nurse, Chris Coleman, Sir Karl Jenkins MBE, Alun Wyn Jones, Catherine Zeta Jones and most recently, the Swansea Branch of the Merchant Navy Association.

3. Ceremony Arrangements

A Ceremonial Council meeting will be convened in due course to confer the Honour.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

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

5. Financial Implications

The cost of the proceedings, including a Freedom Scroll, will be met from within existing budgets.

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