



## Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 3 November 2022

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

<b>Purpose:</b>	To consider conferring Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to Kevin Johns MBE
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	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 held on 8 December 2022 at 2.00 pm to confer the title of Honorary Freedom.
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<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 on 8 December 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

## **4. Integrated Assessment Implication**

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the ‘well-being goals’.
- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.4 An IIA screening has been undertaken (Appendix A). The screening has identified that the proposal has no implications.

## **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:** IIA Screening Report