



Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 21 March 2024

Naming Proposal

Purpose:	To consider the re-naming proposal for the Gloucester Room
Policy Framework:	Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea Corporate Plan 2024/28
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, CMT, CWG
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Council adopts the re-naming proposal as recommended by the Constitution Working Group.
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Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swansea Council's Naming Policy ('the Policy') was adopted by Council on 25th January 2024. See appendix A.
- 1.2 This report outlines a proposal to formally re-name the Gloucester Room as the Lilian Hopkin Room.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Gloucester Room can be accessed via the main entrance to the Guildhall and sits directly next to the Council Chamber. The Gloucester Room has recently undergone refurbishment so as to accommodate multi-location meetings. The refurbishment included the installation of new TV screens, cameras and microphones to allow for hybrid meetings.

- 2.2 The current name was sought for the meeting room in 1976 following extension work to the Guildhall; the name Gloucester Room was chosen after the Duke of Gloucester and is linked to the history and to the royal connections of the building.
- 2.3 Lilian Hopkin (21.09.1931 - 02.04.13) held the position of Lord Mayor of the City and District of Swansea in 1986. Lilian Hopkin was the first female to hold the role since letters patent were granted by HM The Queen Elizabeth II in 1981, which elevated the role from Mayor to Lord Mayor.
- 2.4 Lilian Hopkin was appointed MBE in 2002 for her services to local government and was also estates committee chairwoman on the old Swansea City Council.

3. Key Points

- 3.1 The nominee should, in most cases, be deceased; having made a significant contribution to public life.
- 3.2 Consultation has taken place with the family of the late Lilian Hopkin and the family members are fully supportive of the motion to rename the Gloucester Room as a mark of respect to their late mother, Lilian Hopkin.
- 3.3 Any proposals to name spaces after individuals should be based on a significant contribution to public life and have a connection to Swansea clearly evidenced. Applicable historical records and available information have been summarised by the Archives service within paragraphs 2 and 3.8 of this report.
- 3.5 The proposal was put forward by Councillors and CMT appointed the Marketing Manager to lead on progressing the proposal and overseeing the practical implementation of the proposal if adopted.
- 3.6 The proposal has undergone consultation with the Head of Property Services and Head of Democratic Services for all aspects of managing the site and all confirmed they were content with the proposal.
- 3.7 Consultation has also taken place with all councillors, heads of service and corporate management team. Responses were received from 19 members of the groups consulted, all of which are fully supportive of the motion to rename the Gloucester Room to the Lilian Hopkin room.
- 3.8 It is fitting that the room is renamed in memory of Lilian Hopkin, who is remembered in high regard as an exemplary public servant for the people of Swansea and a strong champion for the community she served as a councillor. Lilian Hopkin set out to help people, made a difference to her constituents and was a dedicated councillor and gave decades of tireless service to public life. Outside of local government, Lilian Hopkin

worked in the clothing industry for decades and was an official in the Garment Workers Union, which later became part of the GMB. She was the union's national president in 1984/85 and was awarded the TUC Gold Badge in 1984 for "meritorious service". Lilian Hopkin was named Swansea Woman of the Year by the Swansea Council for Voluntary Service and was also a Dame of the Order of St Gregory, an order bestowed on Catholics.

- 3.9** The Constitutional Working Group (CWG) received a report regarding this proposal on 22nd February 2024. CWG members discussed and deliberated the proposal based on the information received, and in line with the Naming Policy (Appendix A). It was agreed that a report be submitted to Council recommending the formal adoption of the name as outlined above.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 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 Positive impacts have been identified and no mitigation is required. Clear communications and signage will be required, and information provided to the public and other Council departments on the name and location / coordinates etc. An IIA screening form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report is not required.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Costs at this stage are anticipated to be in the region of £350 for room signage which will be met by Facilities. Other costs for the unveiling will be met by Corporate Services if a ceremony is required.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Naming Policy

Appendix B – IIA Screening Form