

By: Roger Gough – Leader of the Council  
Benjamin Watts - General Counsel

To: County Council – 21 September 2023

Subject: Appointment of Honorary Freeman

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### **Introduction**

- (1) At its meeting on 21 July 2011, the County Council resolved to utilise the power contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, to admit persons of distinction, or who have rendered eminent services to the local area, to be honorary freeman.
- (2) There is no statutory definition of “eminent services”, but Selection & Member Services agreed at their meeting on 12 September 2011 it would be left to the discretion of the Council at the time to assess and recognise any individual’s contribution to the activities and the wellbeing of the county of Kent
- (3) Honorary Freemen should be invited to attend relevant civic and ceremonial events, including the Annual Council meeting, the Chairman’s Civic Reception, and any future appointment of Honorary Freemen.
- (4) The status of Honorary Freeman carries no special right to attend or address meetings of the Council or its Committees or to receive any allowances or payments to which serving Members are entitled. However, at the discretion of the Chairman, a nominee for Honorary Freeman may be invited to respond to the vote conferring that status.
- (5) Members are reminded that, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the nominees for Honorary Freeman have to receive the support of not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a special meeting of the County Council convened for the purpose.

### **Recommendation**

The Council declares its thanks for and acknowledges the service that the ship’s company of HMS Kent has given to our county, and in recognition they be formally granted the Freedom of the County.

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