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| Title of Report: | Freedom Of The Borough Events Update |
| Committee Report Submitted To: | Commemoration & Celebration Sub Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 7th January, 2026 |
| For Decision or For Information | For Information |
| To be discussed In Committee YES/NO | No |

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| Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25) | |
| Strategic Theme | Cohesive Leadership |
| Outcome | Common Purpose and Culture |
| Lead Officer | Director of Corporate Services |

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| Estimated Timescale for Completion | |
| Date to be Completed | December 2026 |

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| Budgetary Considerations | |
| Cost of Proposal | TBC |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | YES |
| Capital/Revenue | Revenue |
| Code | 3104 |
| Staffing Costs | |

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| Legal Considerations | |
| Input of Legal Services Required | NO |
| Legal Opinion Obtained | NO |

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| Screening Requirements | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. | | |
| Section 75 Screening | Screening Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| | EQIA Required and Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| | Screening Completed | Yes/No | Date: |

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|--|------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA) | RNA Required and Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) | Screening Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| | DPIA Required and Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the arrangements for conferring Freedom of the Borough awards and to consider arrangements for Freedom of the Borough requests.

2.0 Update

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Commemoration & Celebration Sub Committee on 05 November 2025, it was agreed that a Special Council Meeting be arranged for consideration of Hannah Scott's Freedom Of The Borough and the NI Prison Service. The meeting is due to be on Tuesday, 6th January, 2026.

3.0 Criteria for Future Freedom of the Borough Events

An outline of criteria for future Freedom of the Borough Events was verbally presented at the 05 November meeting of the Commemoration & Celebration Sub Committee. This will be available as a report to be considered at the February 2026 meeting.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 It is estimated that each Freedom of the Borough Event costs in the region of £8,000.
- 4.2 A budget of £20,000 was set aside for 2025/26 for Civic Functions, which covers Freedom Ceremonies.
- 4.3 A budget of £20,000 is included in the 2026/27 estimates for Civic Functions, which covers Freedom Ceremonies.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 **It is recommended** that Members note the update.