



Title of Report:	Freedom of the Borough Events Update
Committee Report Submitted To:	Commemoration & Celebration Sub Committee
Date of Meeting:	4th March, 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Common Purpose and Culture
Lead Officer	Democratic and Central Services Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	December 2026

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

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

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:

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.

2.2 The meeting was held on Tuesday, 6th January, 2026 to consider a Notice of Motion (NoM) proposed by Alderman Boyle, seconded by Councillor Mairs:

“That this Council award the Freedom of the Borough to Hannah Scott, in recognition of her outstanding achievement in winning a Gold Medal in the Women’s Quadruple Skulls, as part of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team, at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Hannah is the first woman from Northern Ireland to win an Olympic Gold Medal since 1972. Granting the Borough’s highest honour to her would be a fitting recognition of her success, and status as a role model to all young people in this Borough, especially young women and girls.”

2.2.1 To consider a Notice of Motion proposed Alderman Callan seconded by Alderman Fielding:

“That Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council confers the Freedom of the Borough upon the Northern Ireland Prison Service. Recognising the immense sacrifice of those prison officers who served in Northern Ireland through its most difficult times, and indeed who continue until the present day to serve this community with great bravery; and under the most trying of circumstances, to uphold the rule of law and democracy in our prisons. Furthermore, it remembers and salutes those officers who gave the supreme sacrifice for King and Country.”

2.3 NoM 1: That this Council award the Freedom of the Borough to Hannah Scott: The Mayor stated the Notice of Motion was unanimously agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** – That Council Support The Notice of Motion.

- 2.3.1 NoM 2: That this Council award the Freedom of the Borough to the Northern Ireland Prison Service: The Mayor put the motion to the Council to vote.
20 Members voted For, 11 Members voted Against.
The Mayor declared the motion carried.

It was **RESOLVED** – That Council Support The Notice of Motion.

- 2.4 Both recipients have been notified and informally accepted the Award.

The date that Council will award the Freedom of the Borough to **Hannah Scott** is **Saturday 18th April at 11.30am in Coleraine Town Hall.**

Discussions are in motion regarding the date that Council will award the Freedom of the Borough to the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Members will be updated as plans progress.

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 March 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.