

**TO GRANT HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE TOWN TO THE RNLI
REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

1. Summary

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor would like the Council to grant the honorary Freedom of the Town of Weston-super-Mare to the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI). This report provides background information for members.

2. Background

The RNLI is the largest charity that saves lives at sea around the coasts of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man, as well as on some inland waterways.

3. Legal implications

The legal authority for the Town Council to grant the Freedom of the Town lies in the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

According to the Local Government Act 1972, Section 249, a town council has the power to confer the title of “honorary freeman” or “honorary freewoman” to persons of distinction and to those who, in the council’s opinion, have rendered eminent services to the council’s area (section 249(5) and (6) of the 1972 Act).

The grant of honorary freedom must be by resolution at a meeting of the full council specially convened for such purpose and passed by no than less than two-thirds of the members of the council (Section 249(8) of the 1972 Act). If the Council agrees to grant the honorary freedom a special meeting will be arranged in January 2024.

Section 249 (9) of Local Government Act 1972 allows Councils to spend “such reasonable sum as it thinks fit” on presenting an address to an Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewoman. A commemorative ‘scroll’ or certificate will be provided.

4. Financial Implications

The cost of granting the Honorary Freedom to the RNLI will be limited to a scroll and a civic reception, which can be met from within existing Civic budgets.

5. Recommendation

The Mayor, Cllr Ciaran Cronelly, will move and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr John Crockford-Hawley, will second that:

‘The Town Council approves the granting of the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Weston-super-Mare to the Weston-super-Mare branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.’

Malcolm L Nicholson LLB, DMS, PSLCC
Town Clerk
10th November 2023