

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Chief Governance Officer
to South Ayrshire Council
of 26 March 2026**

**Subject: Granting of the Freedom of South Ayrshire to Ayr Sea
 Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets**

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's agreement to grant the Freedom of South Ayrshire to the Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

**2.1.1 Grants the Freedom of South Ayrshire to the Ayr Sea Cadets and
 Royal Marines Cadets; and**

**2.1.2 Agrees that consideration of funding for this event be delegated to
 the Chief Governance Officer.**

**2.1.3 Notes that the costs associated with the Freedom ceremony will be
 met from within the Civic budget.**

3. Background

3.1 Local authorities may award the Freedom of their area to individuals or organisations in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Although originally the title of 'freeman' accorded certain rights and privileges on the holder, no such rights or privileges are now conferred, and the Freedom is now awarded as a mark of respect.

3.2 2026 sees the 85th anniversary of the Ayr unit of the Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets. There will be a special event and a civic reception which will include the presentation of new Colours for their unit and hopefully involve their Admiral, HRH The Princess Royal.

3.3 In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, requests for civic receptions and hospitality are delegated to the Council's Chief Governance Officer.

4. Detail

- 4.1 South Ayrshire Council has granted the Freedom of South Ayrshire on four previous occasions, to the Royal Navy (HMS Gannet) and to the Royal Air Force (Prestwick), both in 2009; and to the Royal Highland Fusiliers, the Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2013, and the Ayrshire (Earl of Carrick's Own) Yeomanry in 2014.
- 4.2 It is proposed to grant the Freedom of South Ayrshire to the Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets.
- 4.3 If approved, it is proposed that the Freedom Ceremony takes place on 29 August 2026.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 In terms of Section 206 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, it is a requirement that a resolution be passed to grant the Freedom by not less than two-thirds of the members voting and present at the meeting of the Council.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The financial cost is still to be confirmed, but is believed to be in the region of £1,800, which sum will be met from within the Civic budget.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

- 8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations

- 8.2.1 There are no risks associated with rejecting the recommendations.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating Equalities)

- 9.1 The proposals in this report do not require to be assessed through an Integrated Impact Assessment.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

13. Link to Shaping Our Future Council Yes No

13.1 Not applicable.

14. Results of Consultation

14.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

14.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Brian Connolly, Council Leader and Policy Lead for Economy and Strategy, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

14.3 Consultation has also taken place with all Group Leaders and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

15. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

15.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Chief Governance Officer will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

Implementation	Due date	Managed by
Freedom Ceremony and Parade	29 August 2026	Wynne Carlaw Service Lead Democratic Services

Background Papers None

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