

**FREEDOM OF ARGYLL AND BUTE AWARD CEREMONY**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In November 2021 the Council agreed to confer the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE. The ceremony will take place at a Special Meeting of the Council and will be the only item on the Agenda. This would normally be followed by a small civic reception hosted by the Provost. This report sets out matters for consideration by Council in order to progress the arrangements for the award ceremony in light of ongoing public health guidance.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Council is invited to:
- a) Instruct the Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Services, to make arrangements in conjunction with the Provost for a special meeting of the Council for the formal admission ceremony;
  - b) Note that this will be the only item on the agenda for that special meeting of the Council, which will take place at a date, time and place to be determined as soon as possible.
  - c) Agree that the Special Meeting of the Council be conducted on a hybrid meeting basis

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 In November 2021 the Council agreed to confer the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE. Ceremonies of this nature are scheduled for a Special Meeting of the Council with this being the only item on the Agenda and would normally be followed by a small civic reception hosted by the Provost. This report sets out matters for consideration by Council in order to progress the arrangements for the award ceremony in light of ongoing public health guidance.

- 3.2 All meetings of the Council and Committees have been held virtually since March 2020 in light of Public Health and Scottish Government guidance in respect of Covid19. These meetings are currently conducted via a Microsoft Teams platform and following the delivery of a project to facilitate the further rollout of teams the equipment is now in place to facilitate hybrid meetings in the Council Chamber. Hybrid meetings allow for in-person as well as virtual attendance at meetings. The technology also enables live-streaming of meetings.
- 3.3 In order to take forward the arrangements for a Special Meeting of the Council to confer award of Freedom of Argyll and taking into account on-going guidance with respect to the workplace and public gatherings the preferred format to facilitate such a meeting is on a hybrid basis, which would be livestreamed. A hybrid meeting would allow as a minimum for the Provost, Leaders of the Political Groups, the recipient and invited guests to be present in the Chambers with the facility for other members to attend on a virtual basis. A hybrid meeting would enable the facilitation of a meeting of this nature while being able to manage numbers and maximising the opportunity for invited guests and Elected Members to attend to mark the occasion.
- 3.4 While the arrangements for the calling of the Special Meeting are a matter for the Provost, Council approval is necessary to enable this to be held on a hybrid basis.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 This report sets out matters for consideration by Council in order to progress the arrangements for a Special Meeting to confer the Freedom of Argyll and Bute in light of ongoing public health guidance. It seeks Council approval to convene this on a hybrid basis as part of the consideration to be taken into account by the Provost and instructs the Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support to make arrangements in conjunction with the Provost for a special meeting of the Council for the formal admission ceremony.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Policy:** This is in keeping with the Council's decision to award the Freedom of Argyll and Bute.
- 5.2 **Financial:** Any costs associated with the Ceremony will be met from the Provosts Civic Budget.
- 5.3 **Legal:** None
- 5.4 **HR:** None

- 5.5 **Fairer Scotland Duty:** None
- 5.5.1 **Equalities – protected characteristics:** None
- 5.5.2 **Socio-economic Duty:** None
- 5.5.3 **Islands:** None
- 5.5.4 **Climate Change:** None
- 5.6 **Risk:** None.
- 5.7 **Customer Service:** None

**Douglas Hendry**  
**Executive Director with Responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support**

**7th February 2022**

**Policy Lead: Provost David Kinniburgh**

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