



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**27 November 2024**

**Report of the Managing Director**

**Honorary Freeman of the County**

## **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider, in principle, conferring the title of Freeman of the County on Albert Keir in recognition of his achievements during his life and career.

## **2 Information and Analysis**

- 2.1 Albert Keir, a Derbyshire resident, is a veteran of the Second World War who was part of the naval crew that ferried US troops onto Utah beach on D-Day on 6 June 1944. Albert was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Légion d'honneur) by the French Government in 2022 for his heroism on D-Day. The Légion d'honneur is the highest French order of merit for both military and civilian personnel.
- 2.2 Albert was also one of the longest serving poppy sellers for the Royal British Legion before his retirement. He returned to Normandy in June 2024 as part of a group of 21 veterans who marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Following the war, Albert worked as a painter at County Hall in the 1950s and is now a resident of Bakewell.
- 2.4 The Council is very pleased to be able to honour Albert's extraordinary efforts as one of the last surviving veterans of D-Day.
- 2.5 It is proposed that the Council considers Albert's nomination in principle so that, if agreed, the formality of agreeing to confer the title would be made at a specially convened meeting, as is required by law, to take place on a date to be agreed. To confer the honorary title, the Council

must pass a resolution at that meeting by not less than two-thirds of the Members present at that meeting.

### **3 Alternative Options Considered**

- 3.1 Not to consider conferring the title of Honorary Freeman of the County on the proposed recipient

### **4 Implications**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

### **6 Background Papers**

- 6.1 None.

### **7 Appendices**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Implications.

### **8 Recommendations**

That Council:

(a) supports in principle the proposal to confer the title of Honorary Freeman of the County of Derbyshire upon Albert Keir; and

(b) agrees to convene a special meeting of the Council on a future date to be confirmed to consider the nomination.

### **9 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 9.1 For the Council to formally recognise Albert Keir's achievements in an appropriate way.

- 9.2 To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, conferring the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman, needs to be approved at a specially convened meeting of the Council.

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**Implications**

**Financial**

1.1 None

**Legal**

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a principal council to confer the title of honorary freeman or honorary freewoman on “persons of distinction” and “persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.” To confer the honorary title, the Council must pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members present at that meeting.
- 2.2 An honorary freeman or freewoman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not have the right—
- (a) to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which they are represented); or
  - (b) to receive any allowances or other payments.
- 2.3 Under section 249, the Council may spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom the authority has conferred the title of honorary freeman.

**Human Resources**

3.1 None

**Information Technology**

4.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

5.1 None

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

6.1 None

**Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

7.1 None