

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE
15 SEPTEMBER 2009

AFFILIATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF EXETER AND HMS DEFENDER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider an opportunity to be one of only two affiliated Cities to HMS Defender, one of the Royal Navy's latest Type 45 class destroyers.

2. Background

- 2.1 The City of Exeter has had a long history associated with its affiliation to HMS Exeter which ended with the ship's decommissioning in May of this year. This affiliation was also much appreciated by the Royal Navy itself which is evidenced by the gifting of one of HMS Exeter's nameplate to the City. The ship's Company also extended their right to the Freedom of the City on many occasions, lastly on 25 October 2008 to coincide with Trafalgar Day.
- 2.2 With this in mind, the City has been approached by the Royal Navy offering it the opportunity to continue its close relationship between the two organisations by becoming one of only two cities that will be affiliated with HMS Defender – the other City being Glasgow.
- 2.3 HMS Defender will be one of only six type 45 destroyers which will be the largest and most powerful destroyers ever operated by the Royal Navy and the largest general purpose warships (excluding aircraft carriers and amphibious ships) to join its fleet since World War Two cruisers.
- 2.4 This is considered to be a great honour and recognises the close interest and support given by the City to the Royal Navy. In the words of the offer letter from The First Sea Lord "The Royal Navy values greatly the close interest and support afforded to your previous affiliated ship HMS Exeter; these bonds were developed and wonderfully maintained throughout her life. I attach great importance to the continuation of the close relationship between the City of Exeter and the Royal Navy."
- 2.5 The ship is currently under construction at Glasgow and is due to be launched on 21 October 2009. The Lord Mayor has been invited to this launch, so as to forge the links between City and ship at the earliest possible opportunity.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council be RECOMMENDED that-

- 3.1 The City Council accept the offer of the Royal Navy to be affiliated with its new Type 45 destroyer HMS Defender.

HEAD OF CORPORATE CUSTOMER SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None