

March 13th, 2026

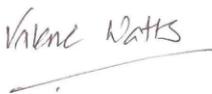
**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend a

Special Council Meeting

to be held on **Monday, 16th March 2026 at 6:30 pm** in **Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access.**

Yours sincerely



Valerie Watts  
Interim Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

# Agenda

## 1 NOTICE OF MEETING

## 2 APOLOGIES

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers were invited to declare any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, including gifts and hospitality, they may have in respect of items on this Agenda.

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH - Circulated

📄 *Confirmation of the Freedom of the Borough.pdf*

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***Closed Council - In accordance with Council policy, members of the press will not be in attendance for this section of the Meeting.***

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## 5 INSURANCE RENEWAL 2026-27 - Circulated (13.3.26)

📄 *Insurance Renewal 2026-27.pdf*

*Not included*

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***Open Council***

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<b>Council/Committee:</b>	Special Council
<b>Date:</b>	16 March 2026
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Conferment of the Freedom of the Borough</b>
<b>Publication Status:</b>	Open
<b>Author:</b>	Sarah Williams, Assistant Director – Business Support
<b>Approver:</b>	Laureen Donnan, Interim Director of Corporate Services

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the procedure for the formal conferment of the Borough on Sergeant George Horner.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 On 13 October 2025 the Council resolved on foot of a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Alderman Ashe, MBE, *“That this Council, to formally recognise and honour the incredible service and sacrifice given, bestows the Freedom of the Borough on Sergeant George Horner, Carrickfergus World War II veteran who served with the 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles.”*
- 2.2 The Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (NI) 2015 Regulation 5 (b) states: *“the council of the borough may, in pursuance of a special resolution of the council, admit any person to be an honorary freeman of the borough.”*

### **3. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 3.1 Legislation requires a Special Resolution of Council to confer the Freedom of the Borough to any individual.
- 3.2 Subject to the Council resolving to formally confer the Freedom of the Borough, the award will be accepted, in person, by the recipient at the conferment ceremony which will take place on Friday 27 March 2026 in Carrickfergus Town Hall.

#### **4. Proposed Way Forward**

- 4.1 That Council makes a special resolution in respect of conferring the Freedom of the Borough.

#### **5. General Considerations / Implications**

- 5.1 Financial implications: within existing budget.
- 5.2 Human Resources: no additional resources required.
- 5.3 Equality Screening: any equality or good relations implications will be identified using the Council's usual screening process.
- 5.4 Assets: N/A.
- 5.5 There is alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan; principally with objectives to develop Mid and East Antrim as a safe, inclusive, welcoming borough, where diversity and cultural differences are celebrated, and communities live in peace.
- 5.6 Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact: N/A

#### **6. Recommendation**

- 6.1 It is recommended that Council confers the Freedom of the Borough on Sergeant George Horner.