

**COMMITTEE:** COUNCIL Ref No: C/24/27  
**DATE:** 30 APRIL 2025  
**SUBJECT:** AFFILIATION BETWEEN HMS TRUMPETER  
AND IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** COUNCILLOR NEIL MACDONALD  
**SENIOR OFFICER:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

To consider the proposed offer from the Royal Navy for the Borough to affiliate with one of Her Majesty's warships, HMS Trumpeter, and to agree to the establishment of an affiliation between the Borough and HMS Trumpeter.

*This report has been prepared by Ainsley Gilbert, Tel: 01473 432510, Email: [ainsley.gilbert@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:ainsley.gilbert@ipswich.gov.uk)*

***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*Leader of the Council  
Chief Executive and Directors*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***  
*(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)*

*Corporate Strategy: Proud of Ipswich – Championing our Community and Revitalising our Town*

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

*(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information –*

**None**

**OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS**

*(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)*

**None**

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## **1. Executive Summary**

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- 1.1 The Royal Navy has offered HMS Trumpeter to be affiliated with the Borough. Councillors are asked to decide if they wish to accept this affiliation.

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## **2. Background**

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- 2.1 The Royal Navy has a policy of affiliating each of its warships with towns, cities and boroughs throughout the United Kingdom.
- 2.2 Councillors will be aware that the Borough lost its affiliation to HMS Quorn when the ship was decommissioned in 2017.
- 2.3 HMS Trumpeter is part of the Coastal Forces Squadron. HMS Trumpeter is small enough to enter the wet dock and had previously been based in Ipswich. When Trumpeter left Ipswich in May 2024, the Mayor presented the Commanding Officer with a certificate noting the friendship between the town and ship. Trumpeter is expected to be visible and accessible to the public when she is docked in Ipswich.
- 2.4 Further detail regarding this ship can be viewed at <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/organisation/units-and-squadrons/archer-class/hms-trumpeter>

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## **3. Relevant Policies**

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- 3.1 The affiliation with HMS Trumpeter is likely to contribute to the following priorities of the Corporate Strategy: Proud of Ipswich.
- Promoting community well-being and fairness in Ipswich

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## **4. Options Considered / Under Consideration**

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### **Option A – Accept the Affiliation**

- 4.1 Council may choose to accept the affiliation which will strengthen the relationship between Ipswich and the Royal Navy.

### **Option B – Do not accept the Affiliation**

- 4.2 Council could choose not to accept the affiliation, but this is likely to cause offence to the Royal Navy and specifically HMS Trumpeter and so this is not recommended.

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## **5. Consultation**

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- 5.1 Internal Consultation has taken place with relevant Councillors and Senior Officers.

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## 6. Risk Management

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Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale 1-6) 1 – almost impossible 6 – very high	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible; 4 – catastrophic)	Actions to mitigate risk
Council failed to consider the offer of affiliation from the Royal Navy.	Offence caused to the Royal Navy, Ipswich could lose out on having an affiliated ship.	Report brought to Council for consideration.	1	1	Council considers the offer of affiliation.

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## 7. Environment and Climate Change

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- 7.1 It is likely that the environmental impact of the visiting ship will be minimal.

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## 8. Equalities, Diversity and Community Implications

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- 8.1 Under the general equality duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 8.2 The protected grounds covered by the equality duty are: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. The equality duty also covers marriage and civil partnership, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination.
- 8.3 The law requires that this duty to have due regard be demonstrated in decision making processes. Assessing the potential impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the key ways in which public authorities can demonstrate that they have had due regard to the aims of the equality duty.
- 8.4 The affiliation of HMS Trumpeter will demonstrate Ipswich's commitment to the Armed Forces Community.

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## 9. Crime and Disorder Implications

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- 9.1 No crime and disorder implications are anticipated.

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**10. Financial Considerations**

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- 10.1 The costs associated with the affiliation will be modest and met from existing budgets.

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**11. Legal Considerations**

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- 11.1 The affiliation will not bind the Council to do anything, and as such there are no legal implications. It is intended that a Memorandum of Understanding will set out the aspirations of the Council and HMS Trumpeter for the affiliation.

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**12. Performance Monitoring**

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- 12.1 It is intended that regular discussions be held between HMS Trumpeter, the Naval Regional Commander - London and Eastern England, and the Council to ensure that the affiliation is benefitting all parties.

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**13. Conclusions**

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- 13.1 The Borough has a long-standing connection with the Armed Services and the offer to affiliate with HMS Trumpeter provides an opportunity for the Borough to re-establish its connection with the Royal Navy.

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**14. Recommendations**

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- 14.1 It is recommended that Council approve the establishment of the affiliation between Ipswich Borough Council and HMS Trumpeter.