



Glasgow City Council

Council

Report by Lord Provost/ Business Manager and City Convener for Open Government.

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Item 3

31st October 2024

**GRANTING OF THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW
TO ELAINE C SMITH**

Purpose of Report:

To grant the Freedom of the City of Glasgow to Elaine C Smith.

Recommendations:

Council is asked to:-

- Agree that Elaine C Smith should receive the Freedom of the City of Glasgow.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

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1. **Background**

- 1.1 Glasgow celebrates its 850th birthday in 2025.
- 1.2 To mark this milestone, the Council wishes to recognise the outstanding Glaswegians that have contributed greatly to our city.
- 1.3 The greatest tribute of respect that the city can bestow on a citizen is The Freedom of the City of Glasgow. It is awarded by the Council to *“persons of distinction or persons who have rendered eminent service to the City.”*
- 1.4 Previous recipients of the Freedom of the City of Glasgow include Sir Samuel Curran, Nelson Mandela, Kenneth Mathieson Dalglish, The Very Rev George Fielden MacLeod, Sir Alex Ferguson, Rt Hon The Lord MacFarlane and Sir Billy Connolly.

2. **Elaine C Smith**

- 2.1 Council agrees to award Elaine C Smith the Freedom of the City of Glasgow.
- 2.2 Elaine C Smith is one of Scotland’s most respected and celebrated performers. Following her training at the then Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, she has starred in some of the most iconic Glasgow shows including as Mary Doll in Rab C Nesbitt, Irene in City Lights and as Christine in Two Doors Down for which she won a BAFTA Scotland award. For her series ‘Burds Eye View’ where she toured around Scotland she won a Royal Television Society Award.
- 2.3 She is also a prolific theatre performer with roles in Scottish classics including The Steamie, as well as being part of the original London cast of the Calendar Girls, a recent turn as the Child Catcher in the national tour of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and as Susan Boyle in I Dreamed a Dream, the musical that she also co-wrote.
- 2.4 She has also been a stalwart of the Glasgow pantomime scene for decades and has appeared in dozens of pantos, many of them alongside Gerard Kelly and has been part of the team that helped the Glasgow Kings be nominated several times and finally win Best Panto in the UK. Elaine also won ‘Best Fairy’ at the UK Pantomime awards.
- 2.5 Alongside her acting and comedy career, she has written two books including her autobiography ‘Nothing Like A Dame’.
- 2.6 Elaine originally trained as a teacher and has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from the University of Glasgow, the University of Dundee, the Open University and a fellowship from North Lanarkshire College.
- 2.7 She has been active in her local community of Mount Vernon and has undertaken significant charitable work. She has long been a campaigner on

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subjects such as ending violence against women. She is an established host of charity events, most recently helping to raise over £20,000 for the National Society for the Protection of Children, as well as raising £10,000 for local foodbanks through her free stand up-shows in Barlanark, Pollok, Knightswood and Castlemilk. She is also a patron of several charities including the Moira Fund.

2 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: N/A

Legal: N/A

Personnel: N/A

Procurement: N/A

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which theme(s) and outcome(s) the proposal supports

Equality Impacts:

EQIA carried out: No

Outcome: N/A

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: N/A

Social: N/A

Economic: N/A

3 Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- Agree that it would be with great pride and affection that Elaine C Smith receive the Freedom of the City

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