

<b>Report of:</b>	Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support The Elected Mayor
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**AGENDA ITEM 15**

<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council, 17 October 2018
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<b>Subject:</b>	Affiliation of Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
To seek Council agreement to a formal affiliation between Middlesbrough Council and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight.

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Can be called-in:</b>
Decision	No	No	No

<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>Business Imperatives</b>	<b>Physical Regeneration</b>	<b>Social Regeneration</b>
The affiliation between Middlesbrough Council and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight would mark a long tradition with the Navy which includes the adoption of HMS Marlborough and HMS Jupiter in previous years.	Not applicable	The adoption of the ship would help maintain the Council’s traditional and historic links with Royal Navy vessels, whilst also helping to attract visitors to the area.

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
Not applicable

### **What is the purpose of this report?**

1. The purpose of the report is to seek Council agreement to a formal affiliation between Middlesbrough Council and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight.

### **Why does this report require a Member decision?**

2. The agreement to a formal affiliation between the Council and Royal Naval Ships is a Council decision.

### **Report Background**

3. The Naval Regional Commander for Northern England and the Isle of Man has approached the Elected Mayor to request that a formal affiliation between Middlesbrough Council and RFA Wave Knight be established. Middlesbrough Council previously adopted HMS Jupiter in 1975, and HMS Marlborough in 1993. HMS Marlborough was subsequently granted the Freedom of the Borough in 2000. Both ships have since been decommissioned.
4. In 2016, Middlesbrough Council received the Employee Recognition Scheme Silver Award 2016 in appreciation of their ongoing support to the Armed Forces Community. A Civic affiliation like this would complement the Armed Forces Covenant which provides a vital link between Middlesbrough Council and the Armed Forces.
5. If agreed a presentation of a certificate to mark the adoption of RFA Wave Knight will be arranged for 7 November 2018.

### **What decision(s) are being asked for?**

6. That Council approves the formal affiliation between Middlesbrough Council and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight.

### **Why is this being recommended?**

7. The affiliation is being recommended as the two ships that Middlesbrough Council had previously adopted have both been decommissioned.

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

8. No other options have been considered.

### **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

#### ***Legal***

9. No impact.

#### ***Financial***

10. The certificate recognising the adoption of Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight will cost in the region of £400.

### ***Policy Framework***

11. Not applicable. The report does not propose an amendment to the policy framework.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

12. Not applicable.

### ***Risk***

13. If the Council fail to approve the request for an affiliation with RFA Wave Knight, it would diminish the longstanding relationship that the Council has always had with the Royal Navy, and may adversely impact on the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

14. If agreed, a presentation of a certificate to mark the adoption of RFA Wave Knight will be arranged for 7 November 2018 and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight will become the adopted ship of Middlesbrough Council.

### **Background papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**Picture of RFA Wave Knight**



RFA Wave Knight (A389) is a Wave Knight-class fast fleet tanker, launched in 2000 and accepted into service in 2003. She is the second ship to bear this name in RFA service.

The ships are crewed by 72 Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and there is also provision for 26 Royal Navy personnel for helicopter and weapons systems operations.

Wave Knight is able to operate in support of amphibious forces, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare operations and protection of vital sea areas and shipping.