

Notice of Motion: Freedom of the Borough

That this Council award the Freedom of the Borough to Hannah Scott, in recognition of her outstanding achievement in winning a Gold Medal in the Women's Quadruple Skulls, as part of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team, at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Hannah is the first woman from Northern Ireland to win an Olympic Gold Medal since 1972. Granting the Borough's highest honour to her would be a fitting recognition of her success, and status as a role model to all young people in this Borough, especially young women and girls.

Citation:

Hannah Scott's rowing career is an inspiring story of hard work, dedication and success at the highest possible level.

On 31 July 2024, as part of the Great Britain & Northern Ireland Women's Quadruple Skulls rowing team, Hannah won the Gold Medal at the Olympic Games in Paris. In doing so, she became the first Northern Irish woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal since Mary Peters in 1972.

Learning to row at Bann Rowing Club, Coleraine, she has followed in the footsteps of fellow club members and Olympic medallists Alan Campbell, and brothers Peter and Richard Chambers. Hannah has spoken of how she was inspired by their achievements at London 2012, and her desire to use her own success on the water to inspire the next generation of athletes from our Borough.

A former pupil of Coleraine High School, her incredible rowing talent resulted in her winning a place at Princeton University, where she won two Ivy League Championships.

Hannah's Olympic success marks a new high in a career already bursting with achievement at elite level. Her Olympic gold was built upon victories at the 2024 European Rowing Championships, and the 2023 World Championships.

Outside of her achievements in the boat, Hannah has been a vocal advocate for woman in sport. She has previously spoken out about the importance of personalised performance research and nutritional support for elite woman athletes, following her own struggles with repetitive injuries. These injuries nearly forced her retirement from rowing aged just 23.

Hannah's services to rowing and local sport deserve our recognition and highest honour. Granting her the Freedom of the Borough would be a fitting acknowledgement of her achievement and further highlight her as a fantastic role model for the young people of this Borough, especially young women and girls.