



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Affiliation of HMS Duncan to the City of Belfast
<b>Date:</b>	19 September 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Gerry Copeland, Events Manager

<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
In August 2008 Belfast City Council's Chief Executive received a letter from Rear Admiral Philip Jones (see appendix 1) enquiring whether the Council would agree to the affiliation of the Royal Navy's newest Type 45 Destroyer, classified as the 'Daring Class' to the City of Belfast. Specifically Rear Admiral Jones has requested that Belfast become linked to HMS Duncan which is currently under construction in the United Kingdom.

<b>Key Issues</b>
Key points Joint affiliation –If Belfast accepted this offer the city would share a joint affiliation of HMS Duncan with Dundee City in Scotland. Historical connection - Belfast has not had a formal relationship to a Royal Naval vessel since HMS Belfast. It should be noted that the name of the ship will not be changed to reflect an affiliated city. Promotion of Belfast – The creation of a formal affiliation with HMS Duncan would allow Belfast to be promoted as the vessel tours the globe. Regular visits to Belfast – The potential link with HMS Duncan would also see the ship and its crew of 195 make regular visits to Belfast. Such visits would not only have civic opportunities, but also have economic returns via crew expenditure during their stay in the city. Maritime and Naval Connections – The creation of a formal relationship with HMS Duncan would allow Belfast to further develop its historical maritime connections. This would include links to other countries with operational naval vessels such as the Irish Naval Service.

<b>Resource Implications</b>
<u>Financial</u>  None

Human Resources

There would be no additional staffing requirements if the Committee agreed to this process. However it would be proposed that the affiliation be handled via the Lord Mayor's Office.

Asset and Other Implications

None

**Recommendations**

Members are requested to provide agreement that the Council and the City of Belfast becomes formally affiliated with HMS Duncan.

Appendix 1