Lady Astor statue for Plymouth

A statue of former Plymouth MP Lady Nancy Astor is to be installed in the city following a successful fundraising campaign.

Lady Astor was elected in 1919 and became the first woman MP to sit in parliament.

Now sculptor Hayley Gibbs has been announced as designer of the statue.

She says: “I am so honoured and excited to have my design selected for this ground-breaking piece of public art.”

The fundraising target of £125,000 was reached on January 30.

The statue is planned to be erected in Plymouth later this year to mark the 100th anniversary of Lady Astor’s election as MP for Plymouth Sutton on 28 November, 1919.

Dr Jacqui Turner, historian and international Astor scholar at the University of Reading, is a member of the Lady Astor Statue Appeal committee.

She said: “The dream of raising a statue in honour of the first woman to sit in Parliament is now closer than ever. Nancy Astor changed the course of politics forever when she won the 1919 Plymouth Sutton by-election and walked into a Parliament that had until then entirely consisted of men.”