

COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 6.6 CONFERRMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Purpose of Report

To consider initial arrangements for conferring the Freedom of the Borough to Mr Lez Cope-Newman.

Recommendations

1. That consideration be given to conferring upon Mr Lez Cope-Newman the honour of Honorary Freeman in view of his eminent services to the Borough and its people.
2. That subject to 1 above, the ceremony take place at a special meeting of the Council at 6.30pm on 24th June 2019, prior to the ordinary Council meeting proposed for that date.

Reasons

1. To consider in principle whether to confer a civic honour.
2. To make arrangements for a special meeting to confer the honour as required by statute.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to confer the title of Honorary Freeman on “persons who have, in the opinion of the Council have rendered eminent services to the Borough”. There must be a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose of granting the Freedom of the Borough.

The Council granted the Freedom of the Borough to Ms Paula Radcliffe MBE and Mr Mike Jones in 2008.

The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour the Council can bestow on any citizen and, in order of precedence, Honorary Freeman are placed immediately above Honorary Aldermen.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

It has been suggested that the Council give consideration to conferring the honour of Honorary Freeman on Mr Lez Cope-Newman. Mr Cope-Newman is currently the Chair of the Love Loughborough Business Improvement District

(BID), having previously served as Vice-chair, founder member and director following the BID's establishment in 2012. Mr Cope-Newman has lived in the Borough for almost all of his life and has owned and managed a number of businesses locally. Mr Cope-Newman has undertaken a significant amount of work to raise money for charities including the Breast Care Unit at Glenfield Hospital, Loughborough Beacon Rotary Club and to support people with Down's syndrome and their families. That work has followed from his earlier activities in youth work.

If the Council wishes to confer the honour, it is suggested that the special Council meeting takes place at 6.30pm on 24th June 2019 in the Preston Room, Woodgate Chambers, Loughborough, prior to the ordinary Council meeting proposed for that date. A report setting out proposed meeting dates for the 2019/20 Council year appears elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

Any costs associated with arrangements for conferring the honour of Honorary Freeman can be met from existing budgets.

Risk Management

There are no risks associated with making this decision.

Background Papers: None

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