

COUNCIL – 21ST JUNE 2021

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 6.1 CONFERMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Purpose of Report

To consider initial arrangements for conferring the Freedom of the Borough status to Leicester City Football Club.

Recommendations

1. That consideration be given to conferring upon Leicester City Football Club the honour of Honorary Freeman in view of their 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 6th September 2021, 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”.

The Council, on rare occasions, may choose to confer the Freedom of the Borough on organisations or objects where they are: 1 Organisations or objects of distinction linked to the Borough, and 2 Organisations or objects which 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.

Decisions to agree nominations will be made at a specially convened Full Council meeting for this purpose by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting

The Council has granted the Freedom of the Borough to the following persons:

- Ms Paula Radcliffe MBE - 2008
- Mr Mike Jones - 2008
- Mr Lez Cope-Newman – 2019

Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour which will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances where the prospective recipient is an individual or organisation of distinction that has rendered eminent services to the Borough. They will have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the Borough and/or on the international stage which have brought pride and satisfaction to the Borough

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

It has been proposed that the Council give consideration to conferring the honour of Honorary Freeman on Leicester City Football Club.

Leicester City won the Emirates FA Cup for the very first time in the Football Club's history this year.

The Foxes defeated Chelsea 1-0 at Wembley Stadium in the final on Saturday, 15th May 2021.

The Club has now won English football's three major honours – the Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup – across its 137-year history.

After 137 years of waiting, the Foxes lifted the world-famous trophy to the skies following a 1-0 victory over UEFA Champions League finalists and subsequent winners Chelsea at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, 15th May 2021.

Leicester City Women's team who have played their home games in Quorn this season have also delivered inspirational success with promotion to the Women's Super League after winning the Women's Championship. They are still hoping for cup glory with a quarter final against Manchester City to be played later this year.

The Foxes' training facility is a £100m development on the site of the former 185-acre Park Hill golf course, off the A46. It is based within the Charnwood Borough Council boundary and the club have developed strong community links. Therefore, on this basis it is a fitting tribute that the Club be conferred this civic honour.

If the Council wishes to confer the honour, it is suggested that the special Council meeting takes place at 6.30pm on 6th September 2021 in the Preston Room, Woodgate Chambers, Loughborough, prior to the ordinary Council meeting proposed for that date.

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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