

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL – 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 3 CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH ON LEICESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

Purpose of Report

To enable the Council to consider conferring the title of Honorary Freedom of the Borough on Leicester City Football Club.

Recommendation

That consideration be given to conferring upon Leicester City Football Club the title of Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

Reason

To recognise the Club's eminent services to the Borough and its people.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to confer the title of Honorary Freedom of the Borough on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough and its people.

The Council may also confer the Freedom of the Borough on organisations of distinction linked to the Borough, which have rendered eminent services.

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

- Ms Paula Radcliffe MBE - 2004
- Mr Mike Jones - 2008
- Mr Lez Cope-Newman – 2019

In addition, the Council has granted Freedom of Entry to the Borough to the following:

- Royal Anglian Regiment – 2006
- 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment, the Royal Logistics Core - 2010

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.

At its meeting on 21st June 2021, the Council agreed that arrangements be made to hold the Extraordinary Council meeting that is required to confer the title of Honorary Freedom of the Borough upon Leicester City Football Club (Minute No. 20 2021/22 refers).

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

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

The Club won the Emirates FA Cup for the very first time in the Football Club's history this year. They 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, they 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 Club's 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.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

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

Risk Management

There are no risks associated with making this decision.

Background Papers: None

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