



COUNCIL

22 March 2021

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	INSTALLATION OF HONORARY FREEDOM TO COUNCILLOR SALLY BEARDSWORTH
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 For the Council to confirm that it wishes to confer the status of Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Councillor Sally Beardsworth.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council confirms that it wishes to confer the status of Honorary Freedom on the Councillor Sally Beardsworth, in recognition of his public service contribution to the people of the Northampton.
- 2.2 It is further recommended that if recommendation 2.1 is approved, Council agrees, at this this meeting on 22 March 2021 to install Councillor Sally Beardsworth with the Council's Freedom.
- 2.3 That the power is delegated to the Chief Executive to take any actions to finalise the arrangements once approved by Council.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Borough Council can by resolution pass by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, appoint to be an Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough, persons of distinction and persons who have , in the opinion of the Council , rendered eminent services to the Borough Council and people of Northampton.
- 3.1.2 Presentation of the Honorary Freedom is a single honour, accompanied by a special Council meeting and ceremony and the presentation of an engrossed

and illuminated scroll setting out the terms of the Council's resolution. The intention, if this report is approved is to confer the award at this Council meeting .The scroll can be accompanied by a decorated silver casket .

- 3.1.3 The Borough Council has in the past granted equivalent honours on a few occasions to organisations including three regimental 'marching freedoms' allowing ceremonial parades . The last such parade took place on the 19th. March, 2000 by the 118 Recovery Company REME of the Territorial Army Centre .
- 3.1.4 Any resolution to confer the title of Honorary Freedom must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 3.1.5 The honour is purely ceremonial. However, the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to spend a reasonable sum for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address, to a person on whom they have conferred the title.
- 3.1.6 Councillor Beardsworth was elected to represent Boughton Green ward in 1983 and held the ward until 1987. She then spent a number of years working in a hospital in the United States before returning to the UK in 1991. In 1993 she was elected to represent the Kingsthorpe Ward and has done so ever since.
- 3.1.7 During 2005-2006 she was the Mayor and between 2007-2011 she held the Council portfolio responsibility for Housing and remains proud of generating £58 million spending on improving housing in Northampton during that period. She became the Council's first female leader of a political party in 20011 when she became leader of the Liberal Democrats, a position she holds to this day. She wishes to express her farewell to the Borough Council and thanks all the staff and friends she has worked with over the years.
- 3.1.8 It is proposed to install Councillor Sally Beardsworth with the Honorary Freedom at a meeting to be held on the 22 March 2021. Members are requested to note that a two-thirds majority vote of those present will be required.

3 Implications (including financial implications)

3.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 This report is in line with existing Council policy.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 The minor costs of this award can be met within budget.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 There are no new legal implications besides compliance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act ,1972 and its requirement for a two thirds majority vote of those present for any individual nomination.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no direct equality implications

5 Background Papers

Email correspondence and meeting notes considering the nominations

**George Candler
Chief Executive**