



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COUNCIL**

## **22 March 2021**

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Chief Executive**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>INSTALLATION OF HONORARY FREEDOM TO COUNCILLOR PHIL LARRATT</b>
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### **1. Purpose**

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

### **2. Recommendations**

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- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council confirms that it wishes to confer the status of Honorary Freedom on the Councillor Phil Larratt, 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 Phil Larratt 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**

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#### **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 Phil Larratt has served as both a Borough and County Councillor over a total of 34 years during the past 38 years, having represented St George's ward on the Council until 1995, and then from 1999 until the present representing East Hunsbury. His term as a County Councillor was spent representing Nene Valley division. During this time, he has held a number of key roles including having been Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of Northampton County Council.
- 3.1.7 During the past four and a half years Councillor Phil Larratt has been dedicated in his role as Deputy Leader of the Council, where he has not only taken on wide-ranging responsibilities, but has also been able to identify opportunities for improving life in the town and delivering them, such as reviewing and over-hauling the Council owned street lighting across the borough, ensuring increased safety for those walking through parks and public spaces during the hours of darkness. Cllr Phil Larratt is a well respected member of the council, and known for his absolute focus on serving local residents both personally and by making council services the best they can be, with a deep love for the town in which he has lived his whole life.
- 3.1.8 It is proposed to install Councillor Phil Larratt 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)**

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#### **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**

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Email correspondence and meeting notes considering the nominations

**George Candler**  
**Chief Executive**