



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

22 March 2021

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	INSTALLATION OF HONORARY FREEDOM TO NORTHAMPTON SIKH COMMUNITY
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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 Northampton Sikh community.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council confirms that it wishes to confer the status of Honorary Freedom on the Northampton Sikh community, in recognition of its 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 the Northampton Sikh community 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 The Northampton Sikh community has had a tremendous and positive impact on Northampton through their community outreach programme, their spiritual contribution, the contribution to the heritage, their youth work and their work to feed the hungry and look after the poor and needy.
- 3.1.7 The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted their contribution to the civic good of Northampton, and they richly deserve the receipt of the highest honour available to the Council, being the Freedom of the Borough of Northampton.
- 3.1.8 It is proposed to install the Northampton Sikh community 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.

4 Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 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