



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COUNCIL**

## **22 March 2021**

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Chief Executive**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>INSTALLATION OF HONORARY FREEDOM TO NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL</b>
---------------------	---

### **1. Purpose**

---

- 1.1 For the Council to confirm that it wishes to confer the status of Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Northampton General Hospital.

### **2. Recommendations**

---

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council confirms that it wishes to confer the status of Honorary Freedom on the Northampton General Hospital, in recognition of its outstanding service 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 General Hospital 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 Northampton General Hospital and the NHS locally have always been greatly valued by the town of Northampton, and there can be very few residents who have not experienced and benefitted from their care and highly professional medical assistance. So many of the Council will have experienced some of the most significant events of their lives through Northampton General Hospital such as family births, care at the end of a loved one's life, and care that has brought us back from the pain and anxiety of illness, to health.
- 3.1.7 The Covid-19 pandemic has given more clarity than ever over the dedication, compassion and expertise that Northampton is fortunate to have available to us through Northampton General Hospital. Therefore, in recognition of the continual service that Northampton General Hospital provides to the town, and particularly the extraordinary bravery and dedication shown by the NHS heroes during the past year, it is the Council's wish to bestow on Northampton General Hospital its highest honour, being the Freedom of the Borough of Northampton.
- 3.1.8 It is proposed to install the Northampton General Hospital 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**