

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council – 15th October, 2007

Report of the Chief Executive

Honorary Freeman

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a Freeman of the Borough appointment pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Background

2. Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, admit to be an Honorary Freeman of the Borough, persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough.
3. Members may recall that the Staffordshire Regiment and the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment have previously been granted the Freedom of this Borough. Changes in the British Army, which came into effect on 1st September, 2007, mean that three former Regiments have now merged to form the new Mercian Regiment. With effect from this date the former regiments legally ceased to exist. To maintain the Council's close links with the local Regiments, Members may now wish to consider making a Freeman of the Borough appointment in respect of the new Mercian Regiment.
4. Should the Council resolve to admit a person(s) to be an Honorary Freeman of the Borough, it has been customary that a presentation ceremony be held to award the honour to the recipient(s).

Finance

5. The cost involved with a decision to make a freedom of the Borough appointment will depend on the nature of any proposed presentation ceremony. Any such costs will need to be identified from within existing budgetary provisions.

Law

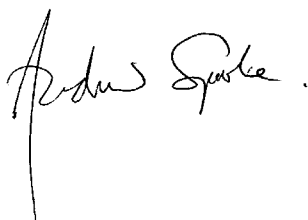
6. The legal powers, the effects of which are described in Section 2 above, are contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Equality Impact

7. This report has no implications for the Council's policies on equality and diversity. There are no direct implications for children and young people and therefore, there has been no consultation or involvement of external groups in developing the proposals.

Recommendations

8. That the Council determine whether to admit any person(s) as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this report.
9. That should it be decided to admit any person(s), the Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for a presentation ceremony.



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Andrew Sparke
Chief Executive