

## **Extraordinary Meeting of the Council – 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2012**

### **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, appoint 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. Lenworth George Henry CBE (known as Lenny Henry) was born in Dudley in 1958. Lenny has made a significant and well documented contribution to the world of show-business over the last three decades. In addition to his services to entertainment, he has also made an outstanding contribution to charity. In his work as a comedian, actor and writer, Lenny Henry has helped to raise millions of pounds for charity by his activities in connection with Comic Relief. He received the CBE from the Queen in 1999.
4. Should the Council resolve to appoint Lenny Henry 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.

#### **Finance**

5. The cost involved with a decision to make a Freedom of the Borough appointment 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 appoint Lenny Henry as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.
- 9. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for a presentation ceremony.

*John Polychronakis*

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**John Polychronakis**  
**Chief Executive**