

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Item A2	Page 1 of 3
Report Originator	Martin Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive		
Wards Affected	None	16 th February 2016	
Title	HONORARY FREEMEN OF THE BOROUGH – DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the criteria for the appointment of Honorary Freemen of the Borough

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting of 16th December 2015 the Council received a report on the power of the Borough Council to appoint Honorary Aldermen and Freemen of the Borough. The Council agreed to appoint Honorary Aldermen and to undertake further work to establish criteria for the appointment of Honorary Freemen. It was resolved:

- 1. That the principal of appointing Honorary Freemen be approved;*
- 2. That the title of Honorary Freeman be conferred on any person who has in the opinion of the Council given eminent service to the Borough.*
- 3. Additional criteria should be developed for the appointment of Honorary Freemen: this would be facilitated through the Research and Development Committee.*

- 2.2 The Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to bestow the honour of the title of Honorary Freeman on “persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the Borough”. It should be noted that “person” can include an organisation. This requires a resolution to be passed by not less than two thirds of members voting at a meeting of Full Council.

- 2.3 The Act does not define what “eminent service” is. The Council has, therefore, requested, that this Committee consider additional criteria to make it clear who will be eligible to be nominated for appointment as an honorary freeman. This will help to make sure that the honour is highly regarded and nominations will be supported by members.

- 2.4. A selection of criteria for nomination based on those adopted by other councils is set out below:

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Item A2	Page 2 of 3
-----------	---	------------	----------------

2.4.1. Public service - individuals that have given extraordinary public service to the Borough over a long period of time, including service as an elected official or public servant, or service within the voluntary, community, educational, health or uniformed services

2.4.2. Individuals that have brought distinction and recognition to the Borough, at a local or national level, through their contribution to following:

- Artistic, or cultural excellence
- Business and commercial development
- Charitable or voluntary work
- Sporting activities

2.4.3. Nominees should also continue to have a strong and continuing connection to the Borough or have made a major contribution nationwide.

Nomination

2.5. It is also advisable to include in the protocol an agreed procedure for the nomination for the honour. This will avoid what could be an embarrassing situation, should a nominee fail to achieve the required two thirds of the vote at Full Council. The Committee may wish to consider a process which will seek to give cross party support to a nomination. The following is suggested for consideration by the Committee:

- Nominations must be made by a serving councillor and be supported by two other councillors and submitted in writing to the Chief Executive/Head of Democratic & Legal Services
- The nomination must demonstrate that the nominee is eligible under the criteria adopted and that they are prepared to accept the appointment.
- The Group Leaders will be advised of the nominations and asked to reach an agreement on the suitability of the nominee.
- A report will be prepared to the next appropriate meeting of ordinary Council to give formal consideration to the nomination.
- If agreed a special meeting of Full Council will be arranged to award the honour.

2.6. It was noted in the report to Council that it is for the Council to decide on the nature of the honours and privileges a freeman may enjoy. They are not entitled to be members of meetings of the Council or committees and cannot claim expenses. It is customary for them to receive a scroll of Freedom and badges. A civic reception may also be held following the meeting of Special Council.

2.7. Members may wish to consider the following additional privileges:

- The use of the title of Honorary Freeman

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Item A2	Page 3 of 3
-----------	---	------------	----------------

- To be included on a Roll of Honorary Freemen and Alderman of the Borough to be displayed at the Council Offices
- They may be invited to attend civic ceremonies from time to time, including Annual Mayor Making.
-

3. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None arising from this report

4. **CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

None.

5. **FINANCE**

It is estimated that the cost of a scroll is in the region of £750, the holding of a civic reception £500 and a Honorary Freeman badge £350. It is anticipated that any costs will be met from the overall agreed budget.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The legal powers for the appointment of Freemen of the Borough are set out in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Council is required to pass a resolution supported by not less than two thirds of members attending the meeting and entitled to vote at a meeting specially convened for the purpose of conferring the title of Honorary Freeman.

7. **RECOMMENDATION**

To consider the criteria and process for the appointment of Honorary Freemen of the Borough

Background Papers:

None

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Report to Council 16th December 2015