

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 02 March 2022

Report Title

Update on the appointment of an Honorary Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At its meeting on 12 January 2022, Council agreed that Mr Gavin Walker MBE would be granted the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough at Annual Council, in accordance with its powers under the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Due to his training schedule Mr Walker MBE is unable to attend a meeting on that date, therefore the Council is being asked to note that an extraordinary meeting of the Council will be arranged for a suitable date and time after 20 May 2022.

Recommendations

1. That Council is being asked to note that an extraordinary meeting of the Council will be arranged for a suitable date and time after 20 May 2022 to bestow the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough to Mr Gavin Walker MBE.

List of Appendices Included

None.

Background Papers

- Report to Council on 12 January 2022.
- Protocol for the Award to the Freedom of the Borough of Rotherham.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Council – 12 January 2022

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Update on the appointment of an Honorary Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham

1. Background

- 1.1 A nomination to admit Gavin Walker MBE as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Rotherham was submitted by Councillor Alan Atkin, on 29 September 2021 with the support of ten other councillors. The nomination set out the various outstanding achievements of Gavin Walker on behalf of the borough.
- 1.2 In accordance with the protocol, the Chief Executive arranged for the Mayor and political group leaders to review the nomination.
- 1.3 Having been reviewed, this nomination was then considered and agreed by Council at its meeting on 12 January 2022.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 At its meeting on 12 January 2022, Council agreed that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his outstanding service to sport as an Olympic Gold Medallist Paralympian and inspiration to others facing adversity through life changing events, Gavin Walker MBE, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough at Annual Council.
- 2.2 Due to his training schedule, Mr Walker MBE is unable to attend a meeting on that date, therefore the Council is being asked to note that an extraordinary meeting of the Council will be arranged for a suitable date and time after 20 May 2022.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The following factors will be considered when selecting new date for the extraordinary meeting to be held on:
 - Mr Walker MBE's availability.
 - The calendar of meetings for the 2022-23 municipal year.
 - Any existing Mayoral engagements.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Council note that an extraordinary meeting of Council will be arranged for a suitable date and time after 20 May 2022.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Consultation regarding the proposal to award the Freedom of the Borough was carried out with the Mayor and the political group leaders prior to consideration by Council on 12 January 2022. This report is asking Council to note that an extraordinary meeting of the Council will be arranged for a suitable date and time after 20 May 2022 and has indicated that any existing engagements will be considered when arranging the meeting.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Subject to the Council approving the recommendation to note that an extraordinary meeting of the Council will be arranged for a suitable date and time after 20 May 2022, the Head of Democratic Services will be accountable for the implementation of Council's decision and for establishing arrangements for the award of the Freeman of the Borough.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Section 249(9) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a relevant authority to spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit, for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom the authority has conferred the title of Honorary Freewoman or Freeman under subsection (5).
- 6.2 The total cost for the Freedom Scroll, Pendant & Bar and engraving on the Freedom of the Borough Board at the Town Hall, is £2,600 which can be met from the existing budget.
- 6.3 It is proposed that a small Civic Reception will be held following the Annual Council Meeting, as recommended under the Freedom of the Borough protocol. The costs will again be met through the budget for the Civic Office.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specifically convened with notice of the purpose, admit Honorary Freewomen and Honorary Freemen of the place or area for which it is the authority persons/organisations of distinction and persons/organisations who have in its opinion rendered eminent services to the Borough.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for children and young people, or vulnerable adults associated with this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications associated with this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change implications associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	21/02/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	21/02/22
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	21/02/22
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	n/a	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (If appropriate)	n/a	Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: *Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services*
emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

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