

## **Committee: Standards and General Purposes**

**Date: 27 April 2023**

Wards: All

### **Subject: Freedom of the Borough**

Lead officer: Louise Round, Monitoring Officer

Lead member: Councillor Michael Brunt, Chair, Standards and General Purposes Committee

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager

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#### **Recommendations:**

- A. To establish a member working group to consider any nominations for awarding Freeperson of the Borough Status and to make recommendations to the July meeting of this Committee for onward submission to Council and then a special Council meeting.
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#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1. Members will be aware that the Council has the power under section 249 of the Local Government act to admit “persons of distinction” as freemen or freewomen of the Borough. A number of nominations have been received for one individual and therefore the report recommends setting up a working group to consider that and any other subsequent nominations.

#### **2 DETAILS**

2.1.1 This Committee has previously agreed that the following process should be followed in order to award freedom of the borough status:

2.1.2 Nominations for persons or organisations to be granted Freedom of the Borough, may be made by any serving Member of the Council to the Monitoring Officer on the appropriate form. The Member should first raise the matter for discussion within their political group.

2.1.3 Once a nomination is received, the Monitoring Officer will check that sufficient information has been provided on the form and will pass it to the Standards and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2.1.4 The Standards and General Purposes Committee may establish a small working group to informally assess nominations and the likelihood of meeting the 2/3 criteria. The working group would report back to the Standards and General Purposes Committee in regard to any nominee who it believed would meet the criteria and achieve sufficient support at Council.

2.1.5 The Standards and General Purposes Committee shall report to Council and, should Council accept the nomination, a Special Meeting of Council would then be called to pass the resolution as required by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 2.1.6 A number of nominations have been received for Ivor Heller for his work for AFC Wimbledon but also for local charities. The details of these nominations are included at Appendix A of this report (exempt).

### **3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 3.1. In relation to conferring freedom of the borough status, all councillors are invited to make nominations and the final decision will rest with full Council. There is no requirement for public consultation.

### **4 TIMETABLE**

- 4.1. If the Committee agrees the working group would meet over the next couple of months with their recommendations brought to the next meeting of the Committee on 19 July. If approved, any agreed nominations would go to a Special Council meeting in the Autumn to be awarded.

### **5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There are no significant implications although a modest amount of expenditure will be required to hold the special council referred to above.

### **6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The power to confer freedom of the borough status is contained in section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 and includes the ability to incur reasonable expenditure in connection with the same.

### **7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None

### **8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None

### **9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None

### **10 APPENDICES**

- 10.1. Appendix A – Nomination Forms