

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 17 May 2018

ITEM 13

Freedom of the Borough

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): N Redfearn

Report from Service Area: Law and Governance

Responsible Officer: Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance

Tel: (0191) 643 5339

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report informs the full Council of a nomination received for the YMCA North Tyneside to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough and invites the Council to consider this nomination.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Council is recommended to consider the nomination of the YMCA North Tyneside for the award of the Freedom of the Borough.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 3 April 2018.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to the Our North Tyneside Plan priorities.

1.5 Information:

Background

1.5.1 The eligibility criteria for nominations for Freedom of the Borough are as follows:

Nominees for the award of Freedom of the Borough of North Tyneside must be persons/organisations of distinction who, in the opinion of the Council, have rendered eminent service to the borough and have either:

- (a) lived in the borough; or
- (b) worked or been based in the borough; or

(c) been born in the borough

The nominee for Freedom of the Borough can be an individual or an organisation. Serving councillors, serving members of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, the Elected Mayor or serving Council employees will not be considered.

Nominations can only be made through Councillors or the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside Council.

- 1.5.2 In accordance with the Authority's Constitution, responsibility for the assessment of nominations for the award of the Freedom of the Borough lies with the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.
- 1.5.3 The Overview, Scrutiny and Policy and Development Committee may recommend a maximum of two nominations to the Annual Council meeting for final consideration.
- 1.5.4 On 5 March 2018, the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee received a report which gave details of one eligible nomination that had been submitted.
- 1.5.5 The Committee agreed to recommend the following nomination for consideration by the Council:

Nominated by Councillor C Davis and seconded by Councillor G Bell.
Supported by Councillors K Clark, M Reynolds, T Mulvenna and A Percy.

I would like to nominate the YMCA North Tyneside for the award of Freedom of the Borough of North Tyneside for their eminent service to the borough.

The YMCA North Tyneside has been working to help those in need within the borough since 1879. Examples of the support they offer are projects such as the YMCA Sir James Knott supported accommodation project, which helps homeless young people restart their lives. It provides some young people with long term intensive support which involves daily one to one care and for others it offers simply a safe, secure place to live, together with the security of knowing they can easily get support if they need to ask.

The project also helps young people with their transition into employment and has recently opened a kitchen and community café which provides an excellent training facility for young people and helps them to acquire skills in customer service and food hygiene skills, which are transferable to the world of work.

The housing project has developed accommodation for young people within the James Knott building and the surrounding area and helped transform that area of North Shields. Together with a fully functional nursery and hosting vital community groups such as the breakfast club for veterans the YMCA has continued to help those most in need helping over 30 homeless young people.

These are the reasons I believe that the YMCA would be a worthy recipient of the Freedom of the Borough for North Tyneside.

- 1.5.6 The Authority's Constitution requires any nominations received for Freedom of the Borough to be included with the business for the Annual Council Meeting.

The full Council is asked to consider the above nomination taking into account the provisions of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, which permits the Council to

admit to be honorary freemen persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough. Any decision to admit the nominee must be approved by not less than two thirds of Members voting thereon at the Council meeting.

1.6 Decision options:

The Council can agree to award or not to award the Freedom of the Borough to the nominee.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

The recommendation is procedural and a recognised part of the business of the Annual Council meeting.

1.8 Appendices:

None.

1.9 Contact officers:

Dave Brown, Law and Governance (0191) 643 5358
Alison Campbell, Finance (0191) 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information has been used in the compilation of this report and available at the office of the author:

The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
Report to and Minutes of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee – 5 March 2018.
Nomination Form.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There is estimated expenditure in the region of £1,000 if an award was to be made. Costs include catering, ceremony programme, handmade scroll and photographer. This expenditure would be met from existing budgets in Law and Governance.

2.2 Legal

The Council is authorised to award Freedom of the Borough by virtue of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

There is little scope for the award of Freedom of the Borough to be driven by the views of external consultees. The Member approval process, as set out in section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, therefore provides the key element to the consultation process.

2.4 Human rights

The proposals within this report do not themselves have direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct equalities or diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

As the recommendation is procedural and a recognised part of the business of the Annual Council meeting, no further risk assessment has been undertaken.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive ☐ x
- Head of Service ☐ x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) ☐ x
- Chief Finance Officer ☐ x
- Monitoring Officer ☐ x
- Head of Corporate Strategy ☐ x