



COUNCIL, 28 MARCH 2012

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: CONFERRING THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

SUMMARY

This report, submitted at the request of the Mayor and of the Leader of the Council, seeks authority for a further change in the arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

The Council has already agreed that Members should consider nominations for the conferment of the Freedom of the Borough as part of civic business during the Annual Meeting. The Mayor has suggested that it would be appropriate for any nomination with which a current Mayor would wish to be associated personally to be dealt with while that Mayor is still in office rather than after their successor has taken office.

Legal provisions relating to the conduct of the Annual Meeting require that the change of Mayoralty be first in the order of business so it is not possible to arrange matters exactly as the Mayor has suggested. It is, however, possible for an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be convened immediately before the Annual Meeting, for the sole purpose of conferring the Freedom on any nominees. When that meeting finished, the Council would immediately reconvene for the Annual Meeting, which would then proceed as usual.

The recommendations that follow make appropriate provision for conducting matter on this occasion. It is suggested that the Governance Committee – which already has in hand a review of other aspects of the Annual Meeting arrangements – should be invited to consider, in due course, whether the suggested approach should be a permanent feature of the Council's Annual Meeting arrangements.

This report is submitted directly to the Council, rather than to the Governance Committee in the normal way as, if action is to be taken on the Mayor's suggestion, the decision to do so needs to be taken at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 23 May 2012 for the purpose of considering whether to confer upon any person nominated the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.
- 2 That the Annual Meeting of the Council due that day be convened to begin at the conclusion of the extraordinary meeting authorised by (1) above.
- 3 That the order of business for the Annual Meeting on this occasion omit the conferment of the Honorary Freedom
- 4 That the Governance Committee be requested to consider, in due course, whether the arrangement now proposed should become permanent.

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Background paper List

There are no background papers