

Appendix

Motion to Council 8-19 from Councillor Rust

Our council resurrected the Freedom of the Borough award in 2003 after a long period of absence. The criteria for the nomination of the award only state that the nominee must have given outstanding service to the borough. The leader of the council has previously stated that “they” have set the bar high. Based on those who have been awarded the freedom compared to those who have been nominated and not granted it, that bar could be deemed to have been set at a measure invisible to most and arbitrary at best. This motion sets to change that and instead, provide clearer guidelines on what could be considered to fulfil the criteria.

This council is asked to adopt the following criteria when awarding this honour.

The conferment of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough is a mark of distinction upon the person or persons whom the council wishes to honour. The freedom itself carries no privilege and is purely an honour, reflecting the eminence of the person on whom it is conferred or as recognition of significant and/or valuable services rendered to the borough by that person. It is normally an honour bestowed on those of note who have lived or worked in the borough and who are proud to be a part of the history of that borough through that freedom. It should not be awarded to serving councillors.

What criteria should be used to award this status?

The principle is that these awards should be made on merit, defined as:

- Achievement
- Exceptional Service

Awards should not be given merely for a job well done or because someone has reached a particular level. They should be awarded because an individual has gone over and above what is expected or what has previously been seen as the standard, being seen to have demonstrated “Service Above Self” and to stand above others in what has been achieved before.

To be considered for the award a nominee should meet at least two of the following criteria:

1. Delivered in a way that has brought distinction to borough life and enhanced the reputation of the borough in the area or activity concerned
2. Contributed in a way to improve the lives of those less able to help themselves
3. Demonstrated innovation and entrepreneurship which is delivering discernible benefits to the area or activity concerned.

For candidates to be considered they must be able to demonstrate a strong and continuing connection with, and commitment to, the borough or to have made a major contribution to national life and, in doing so, have enhanced the reputation of the borough.

People from all walks of life and all sections of society who have made a difference to the community and the borough are eligible to be nominated, provided that, at the time of nomination, they are living in the borough.

It could be include the following

- Artistic and cultural endeavours

- Business, economic growth and prosperity
- Charitable work
- Improvement to built and natural environment
- Religious and spiritual life
- Sports activities
- Civic service

Nominations for persons or organisations to be granted the Freedom of the Borough may be made by any resident of the borough who are on the electoral roll. Each nomination must be supported by at least 5 referees to testify to the nominee's worthiness, two of whom at least should be currently resident citizens of the Borough.

A form shall be drafted which enables the nominating person to set out clearly the necessary details for the award and should include the following

Nominees details – information about the person being nominated . Surname, forename, nickname, Title Address, Telephone Number, Email address

The recommendation – the details of how the nominee has made a significant contribution in their area of activity – giving as much detail as possible

What role they have excelled in?

How have they demonstrated service worthy of recognition?

How has the nominee contribution impacted on their particular field, locality, group or the community at large?

Over what time period did the nominee make their contribution or major commitment?

What makes this person stand out from others doing similar work?

Background Info

Full details of post(s) held by nominee, paid or voluntary, which support or are relevant to your nomination. Start and end dates, or if they're still involved.

Letters of support – one letter of support may be submitted. Confidentiality must be maintained and details of the nomination must not be discussed with any other persons or with the nominee.

Details of the person making the nomination

Surname

Forename

Address

Telephone Number

Email address

Relationship to nominee

Signature

Date

Confidentiality statement