

Wolverhampton City Council

Committee / Panel	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	7 October 2010
Originating Service Group	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
Contact Officer	LINDA BANBURY	
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Title	FREEDOM OF THE CITY – RACHAEL HEYHOE-FLINT	

1.0 Recommendations

- a) That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened on 3 November 2010 to confer the Freedom of the City on Rachael Heyhoe-Flint in recognition of her eminent services to the City of Wolverhampton and to sport and public relations.
- b) That arrangements be made in due course to celebrate the honour.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 1972 requires that an extra ordinary Council meeting has to be held in order to confer the Freedom of the City, with no-less than two thirds of councillors voting having to approve the proposal.
- 2.2 Local Authorities may grant Freedom of the City or Freedom of Entry. The former is given to "persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the City". It is the most honourable distinction that a City can bestow and the recipient is thereafter referred to as Freeman.
- 2.3 The latter is granted to current serving uniformed organisations (usually, but not exclusively, the military) "which have rendered conspicuous service and which are associated with the City". Freedom of Entry grants the organisation the "freedom to march through the streets of the City with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying".
- 2.4 Although being awarded the Freedom of the City does not carry any rights or responsibilities, it is a considerable honour that is bestowed exceptionally. The most recent awards of the Freedom of Wolverhampton were to Olympic gold medallist, Denise Lewis (2000), Sir Jack Hayward, President of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (2003) the Veterans of the Princess Irene Brigade who were members of the Dutch Army stationed at Wrottesley Park during World War 11 (2006), Lord Turner of Bilston (2006) and former World Champion Cyclist, Hugh Porter (2008).
- 2.5 Freedom of Entry to Wolverhampton has been conferred on the West Midlands Fire Service, Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering at RAF Cosford, The Staffordshire Regiment and 210 Staffordshire Battery 104 Regiment Royal Artillery.

2.6 It has now been proposed by the leader of the Council that the Freedom of the City be conferred on Rachael-Heyhoe-Flint, a lifelong Wulfrunian, former England cricketer, sports media figure and business woman.

3.0 **Freedom Scroll and Casket**

3.1 If the Committee is minded to approve the recommendation, a citation will be prepared for submission to Council which, together with the Resolution passed, will be transcribed on to a Freedom Scroll, made of vellum, hand decorated and inscribed, which will be sealed with the City Council's Corporate Seal.

3.2 A Freedom Casket, for the Scroll, will also be commissioned. The citation will make reference to Rachael Heyhoe-Flint's services to the world of sport including captainship of the English Women's Cricket Team from 1966 to 1978, position on the main Board of Directors of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club from 1997 to 2004 and charity work through Lady Taverners (national charity and fund raising arm of the Lord's Taverners).

4.0 **Financial Implications**

4.1 In addition to the Freedom Scroll and Casket, it is traditional to hold a celebratory event in the Mayor's Parlour, the arrangements for which will be made in consultation with Mrs Heyhoe-Flint. The cost of approximately £2,265 be met from within existing Council resources.

[DM17082010/T]

5.0 **Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications relating to this report. The award of 'Freedom of the City' is within the Council's power to award to citizens who have reached an appropriate status. [MW/28092010/W]

6.0 **Equal Opportunities Implications**

6.1 There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report.