

Extraordinary Council Meeting

2 March 2022

Time 5.45 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Full Council

Venue Council Chamber - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

Mayor Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Qaiser Azeem	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE	Cllr Celia Hibbert	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Olivia Birch	Cllr Keith Inston	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ian Brookfield	Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal	Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Chris Burden	Cllr Rashpal Kaur	Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Alan Butt	Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur	Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Asha Mattu	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN	Cllr Gillian Wildman
Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi	

Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby
Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Adam Collinge
Cllr Jonathan Crofts
Cllr Wendy Dalton
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Stephanie Haynes
Cllr Sohail Khan
Cllr Andrew McNeil
Cllr Andrew Randle
Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Ellis Turrell
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Jaswinder Kaur
Tel/Email 01902 550320 or jaswinder.kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk>
Email democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Tel 01902 550320

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Agenda

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**

DECISION ITEMS

- 3 **Freedom of the City** (Pages 5 - 10)
[To consider a report on Freedom of the City.]

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Report title	Freedom of the City	
Referring body	Governance and Ethics Committee - 10 December 2021	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Ian Brookfield	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of the Council	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.Pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Governance and Ethics Committee	10 December 2021

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Bestow the honour of Freedom of the City to Lisa Potts in recognition of her exceptional bravery in saving children in the City of Wolverhampton and charity work.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider bestowing the honour of Freedom of the City to Lisa Potts in recognition of her exceptional bravery in saving children in the City of Wolverhampton and charity work.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 10 December 2021, Governance and Ethics Committee considered a report on Freedom of the City.
- 2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).
- 2.3 Governance and Ethics Committee recommended to Council that it:
1. Convenes an extraordinary meeting to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City to Lisa Potts in recognition of her exceptional bravery in saving children in the City of Wolverhampton and charity work.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 10 December 2021.

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 10 December 2021.

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 10 December 2021.

6.0 All other Implications

- 6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 10 December 2021.

7.0 Schedule of background papers

- 7.1 Freedom of the City, Governance and Ethics Committee, 10 December 2021.

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Governance and Ethics Committee

10 December 2021

Report title	Freedom of the City	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of the Council	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be considered by	Council	26 January 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Governance and Ethics Committee recommends that Council:

1. Convene an extraordinary meeting to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City to Lisa Potts in recognition of her exceptional bravery in saving children in the City of Wolverhampton and charity work.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider bestowing the honour of Freedom of the City to Lisa Potts in recognition of her exceptional bravery in saving children in the City of Wolverhampton and charity work.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 1972 requires that an extraordinary 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.
- 2.5 The conferral of the honour of being made a Freeman of the city is for the Council to determine.
- 2.6 Council agreed the protocol for awarding Freedom of the City on 21 July 2021. The nomination form received has been progressed in line with the nomination protocol. All the Group Leaders and the Mayor have been consulted about the proposed admission of Lisa Potts to Freeman of the City and were in agreement.

3.0 Lisa Potts

- 3.1 Lisa Potts is a former nursery teacher who had saved children from a machete attack at St Luke's Primary School in Blakenhall, in 1996. Lisa was 21 years old at the time and had suffered severe cuts to her head, back and to both arms. Lisa still keeps in touch with many of the children and has supported them through the years.
- 3.2 In 2001, Lisa founded a charity, *Believe To Achieve*, based in schools in Wolverhampton. The charity aims to encourage independence and to increase self-esteem in children.
- 3.3 In 2010 Lisa retrained as an Adult Nurse at Wolverhampton University and then went on to become a specialist Public Health Nurse.

4.0 Freedom Scroll

- 4.1 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

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 It is traditional to hold a celebratory event in the Mayor's City Suite, the arrangements for which will be made in consultation with Lisa Potts. The total estimated cost of the Freedom Scroll and celebratory event is in the region of £4,000. This will be funded from existing budgets set aside for hospitality and equipment purchases within Governance Services. [GE/25112021/Q]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to admit to be honorary freemen or freewomen of the City persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered imminent services to the City. The award of the title of Honorary Freeman has to be done by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose. [TC/26112021/F]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

8.0 All other Implications

8.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 [Awarding Freedom of the City, Council, 21 July 2021](#)

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