

Time 1.30 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight
Venue Training Room, Ground Floor, Civic Centre

Membership

Chair
Vice-chair

Labour

Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr John Rowley

Conservative

Cllr Andrew Wynne

Independent Person

Ray Tomkinson

Quorum for this meeting is two Councillors.

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:

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 4)
 [To agree the minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 16 February 2018]
- 4 **Matters arising**

DECISION ITEMS

- 5 **Freedom of the City** (Pages 5 - 8)
 [To consider a report on Freedom of the City]

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Standards Committee Minutes - 16 February 2018
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Attendance

Members of the Standards Committee

Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Andrew Wynne

Employees

Kevin O'Keefe	Director of Governance
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Richard Phillips	Solicitor/Senior Solicitor

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair Councillor Elias Mattu, Councillor Martin Waite and Ray Tomkinson.

Councillor Val Evans proposed that Councillor Ian Brookfield be appointed to Chair the meeting.

Resolved:

That Councillor Ian Brookfield be appointed to Chair the meeting.

2 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 **Minutes of previous meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 19 January 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

4 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

- 5 **Creation of the Role of Honorary Recorder of the City of Wolverhampton**
Richard Philips, Senior Solicitor, presented the report on the creation of the role of Honorary Recorder of the City of Wolverhampton. He advised that the Council was one of few who had not exercised its powers to appoint an Honorary Recorder.

He added an Honorary Recorder was an unpaid, ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between Councils and the Judiciary and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community. The Honorary Recorder would attend ceremonial and civic functions. The role would also help to raise the profile of the City Council.

Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance advised if the Council were to create the position of Honorary Recorder a scroll would be presented to the person appointed.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

1. Convene an extraordinary meeting to consider the report on the Creation of the Role of Honorary Recorder of the City of Wolverhampton;
2. Approve the creation of the position of Honorary Recorder of the City of Wolverhampton;
3. Appoint His Honour Judge James Burbidge QC as the first Honorary Recorder of the City of Wolverhampton; and
4. Thereafter that the title of Honorary Recorder of the City of Wolverhampton shall pass automatically to the Senior Residing Judge of Wolverhampton Crown Court upon their appointment by the Lord Chief Justice.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Standards Committee 14 March 2018
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Report title	Freedom of the City	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Milkinder Jaspal, Governance	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O’Keefe, Director of Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	Jaswinder.Kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for decision:

The Standards Committee is recommended to recommend that Council:

1. Convene an extraordinary meeting to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City to Steve Bull MBE and Beverley Knight MBE in recognition of their eminent services to the City of Wolverhampton and public relations;
2. Arrangements be made in due course to celebrate the honour.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider bestowing the honour of Freedom of the City to Steve Bull MBE and Beverley Knight MBE in recognition of their eminent services to the City of Wolverhampton and public relations.

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.
- 2.5 The conferral of the honour of being made a Freeman of the city is for the council to determine.
- 2.6 All the Group Leaders have been consulted about the proposed admission of Steve Bull MBE and Beverley Knight MBE to Freeman of the City and were in agreement.

3.0 Freedom Scroll

- 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.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 It is traditional to hold a celebratory event in the Mayor's Parlour, the arrangements for which will be made in consultation with Steve Bull MBE and Beverley Knight MBE. The total estimated cost of the Freedom Scrolls and celebratory event is in the region of £3,000. This will be funded from existing budgets set aside for hospitality and equipment purchases within Democratic Services. [GE/06032018/O]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 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. [RB/28022018/R]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

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