

14 March 2018

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
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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.