

COUNCIL

27 June 2022

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY FREEMAN

Report of the Chief Executive

Strategic Aim:	All	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr L Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy	
Contact Officer(s):	Mark Andrews, Chief Executive	01572 758339 mandrews@rutland.gov.uk
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Appoints Sir Laurence Howard KCVO OBE as an Honorary Freeman of the County of Rutland.
2. Confers the following privileges on Sir Laurence:
 - a) To enjoy the ceremonial title of Honorary Freeman and be so addressed.
 - b) To be invited to attend the following Civic events in the County:
Remembrance Sunday
Annual Civic Events
Any other civic events on the invitation of the Chairman of the Council
 - c) To be invited to Annual meetings of the Council.
3. Instructs the Chief Executive to arrange for Sir Laurence's name to be placed on the Roll of Honorary Freeman held at Catmose.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To request Council to appoint Sir Laurence Howard as an Honorary Freeman of the County of Rutland.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to confer the title of Honorary Freeman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the county and its people.
- 2.2 The Council has an adopted policy on the appointment of Honorary Alderman and Freeman agreed by Council on 10 September 2018.

3 NOMINATION PROCESS

- 3.1 The policy requires a nomination to be made by elected Members and the nominee to meet the following criteria:
 - 3.1.1 Must be considered suitable for fulfilling the role of an Honorary Freeman, and respected by their peers and communities.
 - 3.1.2 Should have made exemplary achievements.
 - 3.1.3 Must not have held elected office with Rutland County Council
- 3.2 In line with the adopted policy two Members, independently of each other, nominated Sir Laurence Howard to be worthy of such an appointment and this was unanimously agreed in February 2022 by the then Group Leaders and senior officers.
- 3.3 Sir Laurence has been invited to confirm his wish to accept the appointment and has confirmed he would be honoured to accept.

4 SIR LAURENCE HOWARD

- 4.1 Sir Laurence moved to Whissendine in 1974 where he continues to live to this day, Sir Laurence's professional background is in medical research and academia having worked at the University of Leicester for over 30 years. Sir Laurence was also a member of a group involved in setting up a dedicated scholarship for Rutland students at the University which continues to this day.
- 4.2 Sir Laurence's most notable service to the county came in 2003 when he was appointed as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, a position as the monarch's representative in the county, Sir Laurence held this position for 15 years until his retirement in 2018.
- 4.3 Sir Laurence has also served as a magistrate on the Leicestershire bench from 1979 to 2003, including a term as chairman of the Central Council of Magistrates' Courts Committees.
- 4.4 In addition to these formal appointments Sir Laurence has been involved with numerous charitable causes and organisations in Rutland and has made an unquestionable contribution to the county and its communities.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The then Group Leaders were consulted following the nomination of Sir Laurence and unanimously agreed to support the nomination and Sir Laurence has confirmed his wish to accept the appointment.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Not to appoint Sir Laurence Howard as an Honorary Freeman, this is not recommended as the proposed appointment is in line with the adopted policy and Sir Laurence is considered to be an outstanding nomination.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The moderate costs required to commission an honorary scroll and the Roll of Honorary Freemen in the Council Chamber can be met within the Civic Functions budget administered by the Governance Team.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Local Government Act 1972 requires that there must be a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose of conferring the title of Honorary Freeman.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks to the rights and freedoms of natural persons and no personal data has been collected in the preparation of the report.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed because there are no changes to existing policies proposed.

11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None arising from the report.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 None arising from the report.

13 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 None arising from the report.

14 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 Sir Laurence has been nominated in accordance with the Council's adopted policy and is considered an entirely appropriate individual given his long and varied services to the county.
- 14.2 Council is therefore recommended to appoint Sir Laurence Howard as an Honorary Freeman and confer the privileges outlined in the recommendations.

15 BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 Local Government Act 1972, Section 249

15.2 Report No. 58/2018

15.3 Rutland County Council Policy on Honorary Alderman and Freeman

16 APPENDICES

16.1 There are no appendices to the report.

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