

COUNCIL – 23RD JUNE 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 5.6 CONFERMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Purpose of Report

To consider initial arrangements for awarding the Freedom of the Borough to Mr Michael (Mike) Thomas Jones.

Recommendations

1. that consideration be given to conferring upon Michael Thomas Jones the honour of Honorary Freeman in view of his eminent services to the Borough and its people; and
2. that subject to (i) above, the ceremony take place at a special meeting of the Council at 6.30pm on 29th September 2008.

Reasons

1. To consider in principle whether to confer a civic honour.
2. To make arrangements for a special meeting to confer the honour as required by statute.

Background

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 have rendered eminent services to the Borough”. 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 granting the Freedom of the Borough.

This Council granted the Freedom of the Borough to Paula Radcliffe MBE in 2004 and the Freedom of Entry to the Royal Anglian Regiment in 2007.

The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour the Council can bestow on any citizen and, in order of precedence, Honorary Freeman are placed immediately above Honorary Aldermen.

Conferment of the Honour of Honorary Freeman

It has been suggested that the Council give consideration to conferring the honour of Honorary Freeman on Mr Michael Thomas Jones. Mr Jones stood down last year after 36 years as a councillor for Loughborough Hastings Ward. He was elected as Mayor in 2004-05 and was Leader of the Council from 1995-1999 and Joint Leader between 1999 and 2003. He has also been a County Councillor for 36 years and was

Chairman of Leicestershire County Council in 2007-08. Mr Jones has lived in Loughborough all his life and received an Honorary Degree from Loughborough University in 2004 for Services to the Community.

If the Council wishes to confer the honour, it is suggested that the special Council meeting takes place at 6.30pm on 29th September 2008 in the Victoria Room at the Town Hall, Loughborough.

Background Papers: None

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