

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 2 nd December 2020
Subject: Honorary Titles	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Claire Mayhew, Corporate and Democratic Services Manager	Public
Report Author/s: Name: Claire Mayhew – Corporate and Democratic Services Manager Telephone: 01277 312741 E-mail: claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk	For Decision

Summary

To confer honorary titles under section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked:

- R1. That, in pursuance of section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of being a person of distinction and a person who has, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough, the Council admits Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, Mr Dennis Rensch MBE OLM DL to be Honorary Freeman of the Borough.**
- R2. The presentation of this Honorary Title will take place at Annual Council on 20th May 2021.**

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. The titles of 'Freeman of the Borough/Freewoman of the Borough/ Freedom of the Borough and Aldermen' are as the names suggest honorary when the Council recognises distinguished service to the Borough.
2. Holders of such titles may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide, but shall not, as such, have the right to attend meetings of the Council or their Committees or to receive any allowances or other payments.

3. The title is honorary only and is one of the highest honours that the Council can bestow.
4. It is through this means that organisations are awarded the Freedom of the Borough. Traditionally this honour is associated with the right of Freedom of Entry for military units with the right to march, with bayonets fixed, band playing and colours flying.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

5. To be eligible to be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman or Honorary Freeman, those nominated must be persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the place or area i.e. the Borough.
6. Again there is no definition in the Act other than the words used. It is thus for the Council to decide locally what constitutes “distinction”.
7. “Distinction” has a dictionary meaning of ‘a marked difference or contrast’ or ‘excellence that sets someone apart from others’.
8. “Eminent services” need to relate to the Borough, not the Council, in the context of whether to admit as an Honorary Freewoman or Honorary Freeman.
9. The Freedom of the Borough with the traditionally associated Freedom of Entry is nowadays achieved through the use of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to admit the organisation to the honorary title of ‘Freewoman or Freeman’ of the Borough.

Reasons for Recommendation

10. The Council wishes to recognise those who merit the highest awards that the Council can bestow on a person or organisation.

Consultation

11. Members were asked to put forward suitable nominations.

References to Corporate Plan

12. None.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Director of Corporate Resources

Tel & Email: 01277 312500/jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk

13. There are no direct financial implications with this report. If necessary, the Council will utilise existing budgets and resources available within service area.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Director of Law and Governance

Tel & Email: 01277 312705/amanda.julian@brentwood.gov.uk

14. Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council by resolution to admit as an Honorary Freewoman/Honorary Freeman/Freedom of the Borough at a meeting of the Council specially convened with notice of the object but under section 249(8) of that Act such a resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at that meeting if the resolution is to be effective.
15. The relevant criteria are set out in the body of the report.

Economic Implications

Name/Title: Phil Drane, Director of Planning & Economy

Tel/Email: 01277 312610/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk

16. There are no economic implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Name/Title: Kim Anderson, Partnerships, Leisure & Funding Manager

Tel/Email: 01277 312634/kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

17. There are no identified Equality and Diversity implications

Health & Wellbeing Implications

Name/Title: Kimberley White, Corporate Health & Wellbeing Officer

Tel/Email: 01277 312688/kimberley.white@brentwood.gov.uk

18. There are no identified Health and wellbeing implications.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

19. None.

Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

20. Nomination forms submitted.

Appendices to this report

21. None.