

Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	27 May 2021 15 July 2021
Subject:	Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or a service unit of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough and this report sets out proposals for the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust to be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

Recommendation(s): That the Cabinet approves the recommendations and commends them to the Council for approval:

- (1) In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of, and the debt of gratitude of the Borough to the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust and in the light of their hard work and dedication during the devastation of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Council resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust and that it be granted the right, privilege, honour and distinction of attendance at all ceremonial occasions and be invited to attend at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be determined at Bootle Town Hall; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services be authorised to take all of the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a civic reception for the Officers and Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust and invited guests to take place at the rising of the Extra-ordinary Council meeting in Bootle Town Hall.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have served Sefton Council and its residents tirelessly throughout the pandemic with hard work and dedication putting themselves at risk in ensuring the safety of others.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options have been considered.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost would be in the region of £5,000.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
There are no additional resource implications to those identified in Section A above.
Legal Implications:
Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972
Equality Implications:
There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Both Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have served the Community for many years. The past 16 months have illustrated how the health service during the Covid pandemic has facilitated confident and resilient communities.
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A

Cleaner Greener: N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6366/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4567/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or a service unit of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough and it is proposed that the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.
- 1.2 The conferring of the Freedom of the Borough upon any individual or service unit is the highest honour the Council can bestow and when the Freedom of the Borough is granted to a service unit, they are given the right, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough on all ceremonial occasions with colours flying, bands playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

1.3 The scrolls of Honorary Freemen and organisations awarded Freedom of Entry to the Borough are displayed in both the Mayors Parlours at the Town Hall, Bootle and the Town Hall, Southport. Honorary Freemen may attend and take part in such civic receptions and functions to which all Members of the Council are invited. However, Freemen shall not have the right, as such, to attend meetings of the Council or a Committee, or to receive any such allowances or payments to which Councillors are entitled.

1.4 Past recipients of the Freedom of the Borough have been:

- 2004 - Donald “Ginger” McCain
- 2006 - James Carragher

The Freedom of the Borough (Freedom of Entry) has also been bestowed on the following Service Units:

- 1982 - No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, which was subsequently succeeded by No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 (North West) Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) in 2001
- 2011 - RAF Woodvale

The Council agreed on 17 November 2016 that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on HMS Mersey at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be determined at Bootle Town Hall.

- 2017 – Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment

2. Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust – Covid 19 Pandemic

2.1 Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have been serving Sefton’s residents for many years. The Health Service is thought of by most as the jewel in the crown of Britain.

2.2 It is known that cases of Covid 19 emerged in Britain around January 2020 and it is thought that it had probably emerged sooner. Covid 19 soon became a pandemic during March 2020 when cases started to increase as the disease mutated and spread quickly. At that time very little was known about the disease only that, in many cases it was fatal and so our NHS Services had to learn at pace and make life changing decisions based on the little knowledge that was known.

2.3 Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have served Sefton Council and its residents tirelessly throughout the pandemic with hard work and dedication putting themselves at risk in ensuring the safety of others. That selflessness and dedication can not be underestimated which is why the Council is recommending that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust.

3. Conferment of Freedom of the Borough

- 3.1 In order to confer the Freedom of the Borough upon an individual or service the Council would need to pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, where notice of the object of the meeting has been given.
- 3.2 If the Council was minded to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, the Chief Executives of both Trusts would be advised and arrangements made for the Freedom to be bestowed upon the NHS Trusts on a date to be determined in 2021/22.
- 3.3 A scroll bestowing the honour would need to be ordered and produced, and arrangements made for a civic reception for the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, and invited guests to take place at the rising of the Extraordinary Council. The costs of the scroll and reception could be financed from the Mayoral Hospitality budget provision.