

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Alex Greenwood		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director (People)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Health and Wellbeing and Communities		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	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 Alex Greenwood to be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

### Recommendation(s): That

- (1) In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of Alex Greenwood as an ambassador for Bootle and an outstanding role model for women and girls in sport and football, and in the light of her hard work, dedication and success, the Council resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on Alex Greenwood in recognition of her outstanding achievements; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services be authorised to take all the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a civic reception for Alex Greenwood and invited guests to take place at the rising of an Extra-ordinary Council meeting in Bootle Town Hall on a date to be arranged.

### Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To recognise the outstanding success of Alex Greenwood in sport and football in particular.

### 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 met from the Council's current revenue budget provision.

**(B) Capital Costs**

None

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
There are no additional resource implications to those identified in Section A above.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>	
There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y

**Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:  Celebrating successful residents inspires young people to reach their full potential.
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 (FD.7009/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5209/22) 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 Alex Greenwood 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 Freedom 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/Freewomen may attend and take part in such civic receptions and functions to which all Members of the Council are invited. However, Freemen/Freewomen 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
- 2017 – Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

1.5 The Council agreed on 15 July 2021 that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on the following NHS Trusts at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held at Bootle Town Hall. The meeting will take place on 26 January 2023:

- Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust,
- Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust,
- Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,
- Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

1.6 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. Discussions are currently taking place with the Royal Navy on this matter, and it is currently envisaged that

the event will be held in early April 2023. Members of the Council will be advised of the arrangements once they have been finalised with the Royal Navy.

## **2.0 Alex Greenwood**

- 2.1 Alex Greenwood is an English professional footballer who currently plays as left back or centre-back for Manchester City in the FA Women's Super League and the England national team. Born in Liverpool, Alex grew up in Bootle where she attended St Monica's Primary School, and Savio Salesian High School. She joined Everton aged eight and signed her first professional contract with the club.
- 2.2 Alex has previously played for Olympique Lyonnais in the French Division 1 Féminine, as well as for the English clubs: Manchester United, Liverpool, Notts County and Everton where she began her career. She has played for the England national football team since 2014, she was also named the FA Women's Young Player of the Year in 2012. During her one-year contract with Olympique Lyonnais she won a quadruple of trophies including the Champions League.
- 2.3 Alex captained England at youth level and played at the 2012 UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship. In 2019, she was part of the England team that won the She Believes Cup in the United States and was selected as part of England's World Cup squad. Greenwood was also in the England Lionesses squad that won UEFA Women's European Championship 2022, beating Germany 2-1.
- 2.4 In previous years, Alex has been a guest speaker at the Sefton Sports Awards and used Litherland Sports Park for training before being signed as a professional footballer. In October 2022, Alex was honoured to have a mural commemorating her sporting successes painted onto the front of 320 Stanley Road in Bootle, thanks to joint funding from Sefton Council and REPT Sports. The renowned Liverpool artist John Culshaw has created the 22ft mural, and it now sits pride of place on the busy Bootle town centre thoroughfare.
- 2.5 Alex is a fantastic role model for young people (especially women and girls) in Sefton and has long been a major influence in the advancement of women and girls' football within Sefton, ensuring she takes time out of her busy footballing career to motivate and inspire future generations of sporting stars throughout the borough.

## **3.0 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 Alex Greenwood, Alex would be advised and arrangements made for the Freedom of the Borough to be bestowed upon her, on a date to be determined in 2023.
- 3.3 A scroll bestowing the honour would need to be ordered and produced, and arrangements made for a civic reception for Alex Greenwood 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.