

Report Title: Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Sefton Council for Voluntary Service

Date of meeting:	17 th November 2024		
Report to:	Council		
Report of:	Executive Director – Operations and Partnerships		
Portfolio:	Communities and Partnership Engagement		
Wards affected:	All wards		
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 Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS) to be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service as a strategic partner for the Council over the last 50 years and to recognise and celebrate all of its achievements over this time in supporting Sefton’s communities; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Commercial be authorised to take all the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a civic reception for Sefton CVS and to take place at the rising of an Extra-ordinary Council meeting in Bootle Town Hall on a date to be arranged.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

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 Sefton CVS 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 Freeman/Freewomen may attend and take part in such civic receptions and functions to which all Members of the Council are invited. However, Freeman/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

2022 – Alex Greenwood

2023 - Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust,

2023 - Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust,

2023 - Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,

2023 - Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

1.5 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

2.0 Sefton Council for Voluntary Service

2.1 Sefton Council for Voluntary Services (Sefton CVS) have worked tirelessly across Sefton communities for the last 50 years. They are a strategic partner of the Council and play a key role in assisting and supporting voluntary community and faith sector (VCF) activity across Sefton, Merseyside. Their vision is to develop a vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector that encourages and supports independent, resilient and sustainable communities.

2.2 Sefton CVS's key activities are to:

- Provide support services to the VCF sector.
- Promote partnerships within the sector, and between the VCF sector and other sectors.
- Provide a channel through which the VCF sector is represented.
- Develop new ideas, strategies and organisations.
- Support and develop volunteering opportunities.
- Promote equality of opportunity and access, and the value of diversity.

2.3 Sefton CVS have provided critical support to the Council and Sefton communities in the most difficult of times – including the Covid pandemic and the tragic events in Southport earlier this year. Their leadership and compassion across all sectors and their ability to work in true partnership to support recovery has been outstanding.

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 Sefton CVS, they would be advised and arrangements made for the Freedom of the Borough to be bestowed upon them, on a date to be determined in 2025.

3.3 A scroll bestowing the honour would need to be ordered and produced, and arrangements made for a civic reception for Sefton CVS 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.

2. Financial Implications

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost would be met from the Council's current revenue budget provision.

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

There are no additional resource implications to those identified in Section A above.

3. Legal Implications

Legal Implications:

Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972

4. Risk Implications

There are no risk implications.

5 Staffing HR Implications

None

6 Conclusion

The awarding of the Freedom of the Borough to Sefton CVS is recommended.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications

Impact on Children and Young People:

This area of the work of Sefton CVS involves the development of a co-ordinated, strategic approach to local services, seeking to embed best practice to deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families, with a focus on multi-agency working and integrated processes. The Every Child Matters Forum, which has 430 members, facilitates VCF sector representation, enabling the sector to provide service solutions to the needs and priorities identified locally and nationally

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Services & Commercial (FD.7801/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5901/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision :

With immediate effect.

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

None