

# REPORT FOR: **COUNCIL**

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**Date of Meeting:** 27 February 2014

**Subject:** Honorary Freedoms of the London Borough of Harrow

**Responsible Officer:** Hugh Peart – Director of Legal and Governance Services

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** None

## Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out proposals to mark in an appropriate manner the milestones achieved by local organisations in recognition of their services and connections to the London Borough of Harrow.

### Recommendations:

To agree that a Special Council meeting be convened to consider conferring the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Harrow on Girls Brigade North West London District and 1454 (Harrow) Squadron Air Training Corps.

## **Introduction**

The conferment of Honorary Freedom of the Borough is to recognise persons who have rendered eminent services and are connected to the London Borough of Harrow.

The Girls' Brigade is an international and interdenominational Christian youth organisation which was founded in 1893 in Dublin, Ireland. The North West London District of the Girls Brigade consists of 8 companies: 1<sup>st</sup> Edgware, 5<sup>th</sup> Hendon, 1<sup>st</sup> Kenton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Northolt, 1<sup>st</sup> Queensbury, 1<sup>st</sup> Stanmore, 1<sup>st</sup> Sudbury Hill and 1<sup>st</sup> Sudbury Town and have been working in North West London for over 80 years. In particular the 1<sup>st</sup> Stanmore Girls Brigade has been working in Stanmore for 75 years.

The 1454 Harrow Squadron Air Training Corps has its origins in the Air Defence Cadet Corps which was formed under the auspices of the Air League of the British Empire. In February 1941, 1454 (Harrow) which is part of the Middlesex Wing, received its Royal Warrant and remains the oldest ATC squadron to operate continuously since, over 73 years its formation.

## **1. Statutory Background**

Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides as follows:

“Subject as follows, a relevant authority may admit to be honorary freemen or freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority—(a) persons of distinction, and (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.”

## **2. Harrow Context**

2.1 Previously the Council has conferred upon the late Sir Winston Churchill the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Harrow. The Honorary Freedom was also conferred on the following individuals (William Allen, A. E. Amor, Charles Jordan and Francis Telfer in 1968) (George Gange and Horace Cutler in 1977). Most recently the Honour was conferred upon Sir Roger Bannister 2004 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Incorporation of the Borough.

2.2 In 1983 a number of locally based Territorial Army units were honoured. The honour was awarded to RAF Stations Stanmore Park and Bentley Priory in October 1988 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Stanmore Park Station and in recognition of the imminent fiftieth anniversary of the roles played by both Stations in the Battle of Britain in 1940. The Christ Church, Roxeth & Harrow Company of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade was honoured in October 1994 with Freedom of the Borough to mark the Company's one hundredth anniversary of continuous service in Harrow. In October 1996 The Royal British Legion Harrow Branch was awarded the honour in recognition of its seventy fifth anniversary.

2.3 In 2011, to mark the 100th anniversary of Harrow High School, the Council conferred the title of Honorary Freedom of the Borough upon Sir Paul Nurse.

2.4 Accordingly, Council as asked to consider calling a special meeting to confer the titles of Freedom of the Borough upon The North West London District Girls Brigade and 1454 Harrow Squadron Air Training Corps.

### 3. Process:

3.1 If the Council wished to proceed with the conferment of the titles of Freedom of the Borough a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at a specially convened meeting of the Council would be required.

3.2 The costs for the Honorary Freedom Award and the preparation and presentation of an illuminated Scroll and these costs will have to be sourced from within current resources.

3.3 This report is submitted, following consultation with the Mayor, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Conservative Group.

### 5. Further Information

If the honour of Freedom of the Borough is to be conferred it would be necessary to call a Special Meeting, and the presentation ceremony could immediately follow the special meeting.

### 6. Financial Implications

There is no specific provision for any expenditure arising from this matter and budget provision will have to be sourced within current resources.

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Dawn Calvert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 21 February 2014		
Name: Jessica Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 21 February 2014		

## **Contact Details**

### **Contact: Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact: Elaine McEachron**, Democratic & Electoral Services Manager.  
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**Background Papers:** None