

REPORT FOR: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting:	1 May 2014
Subject:	Honorary Freedoms of the London Borough of Harrow
Responsible Officer:	Hugh Peart – Director of Legal and Governance Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – Draft Resolutions Appendix 2 – Achievements

Summary and Recommendations

The conferment of Honorary Freedom of the borough is to recognise persons of distinction or organisations with eminent service to and with connections with the London Borough of Harrow.

The power to award the honour of Freedom of the Borough is contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. To invoke the provisions of Section 249 it is required that a Special Meeting of the full Council be convened for the purpose.

Council at its meeting on 27 February 2014 resolved to call a special meeting of Council to consider conferring the titles of Honorary Freedom of the Borough of the Girls Brigade North West London District and 14534 (Harrow) Squadron Air Training Corps.

Recommendations:

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council of the London Borough of Harrow resolve to:

- (i) invoke the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Harrow on
 - (a) Girls Brigade North West London District and
 - (b) 1454 (Harrow) Squadron Air Training Corps

in recognition of its continuous service to the London Borough of Harrow;

- (ii) subject to (i) above, the granting of the Freedom be recorded in an illuminated Scroll and presented to the recipients, and the commissioning and associated costs be approved at this meeting;
- (ii) the Presentation of the Scrolls to be made at a later date.

Introduction

The conferment of Honorary Freedom of the Borough is to recognise persons of distinction or organisations with eminent service and connections with 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: 1st Edgware, 5th Hendon, 1st Kenton, 2nd Northolt, 1st Queensbury, 1st Stanmore, 1st Sudbury Hill and 1st Sudbury Town and have been working in North West London for over 80 years. In particular the 1st 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. Proposed Recipients of the Honorary Freedoms

3.1 At its meeting on 27 February 2014 Council resolved to call a special meeting to consider conferring the titles of Honorary Freedom of the Borough of the Girls Brigade North West London District and 1454 (Harrow) Squadron Air Training Corps.

3.2 In anticipation that the Council would consider the proposal to confer honorary Freedom of the Borough the matter has been the subject of prior consultation.

4. Process:

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

4.2 The costs for the Honorary Freedom award and the preparation and presentation of an illuminated Scroll will 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. 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.

Contact Details and Background Papers

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Background Papers:

Report to Council – 27 February 2014
Minutes from Council meeting – 27 February 2014
Historical records relating to Freedoms