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**REPORT FOR: COUNCIL**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 July 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Harrow
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Hugh Peart – Director of Legal and Governance Services
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Wards affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Draft Resolution

## **Section 1 – 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.

To mark the commitment and diligent service of Alderman Keith Toms as a Councillor of the London Borough of Harrow, it is proposed to confer on him the Honour of Freedom of the Borough.

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.

### **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) confer the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Harrow on Alderman Keith Toms in recognition of his 46 years outstanding

and diligent service as a Councillor and Alderman;

(ii) subject to (i) grant the Freedom by way of an illuminated Scroll to be presented to the recipient;

(iii) make the Presentation of the Scroll at the next meeting of Council.

## **Section 2 – Report**

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

“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.”

### **Harrow Context**

2.1 Previously the Council has conferred Honorary Freedom of the Borough upon

- Sir Winston Churchill (1955);
- (William Allen (1968);
- A. E. Amor (1968);
- Charles Jordan (1968);
- Francis Telfer (1968) ;
- George Gange (1977);
- Horace Cutler (1977) ;
- 31 Commando Unit, Corps of Royal Engineers (1983)
- 47 Middx Yeomanry Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (1983)
- 257 (S) Gen Hosp Royal Army Medical Corps (1983)
- Royal Air Force Bentley Priory and Stanmore Park (1988)
- Christ Church Roxeth Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade (1994)
- Royal British Legion (1996)
- Sir Roger Bannister (2004);
- Sir Paul Nurse (2011);
- The Girls’ Brigade North West London District (2014);
- 1454 (Harrow) Squadron Air Training Corps (2014); and
- Christine Bednell (2018)

- 2.2 Alderman Keith Toms was first elected to the Council in 1974 as a Member for the ward of Harrow Weald and, from 1978-2006, the ward of Kenton East. He served continuously until May 2006 when he stood down having completed 32 years as a Councillor of the London Borough of Harrow.
- 2.3 As a Councillor, Alderman Toms served on all the major Council Committees and was Leader of the Opposition. In the municipal year 1997, Keith Toms held the office of Mayor of the London Borough of Harrow, having been Deputy Mayor in 1996/97. From 1998-2002 he was Deputy Leader of the Council. In this role he represented Harrow on the Association of London Government. The Association appointed him Ambassador for London in 1998.
- 2.4 In July 2006 Members voted unanimously to invest him with the title of Honorary Alderman. The Council recorded their appreciation of the 32 years' service by Keith Toms as a Councillor of the London Borough of Harrow.
- 2.5 Since his Conferment as Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Harrow, Honorary Alderman Toms has given his whole-hearted support to the civic life of the Borough, by making a difference and promoting the quality of life in the local community, through his knowledge, skills, values and motivation in a purely non-political role.

He has attended every Civic Service and Civic Event in his role as Honorary Alderman for the past fourteen years. Honorary Alderman Toms has presided at Citizenship Ceremonies welcoming over 2,000 new citizens to the London Borough of Harrow. He has represented the Mayor at hundreds of Mayoral engagements, often at short notice, and thoroughly enjoyed his role by projecting a positive image for the Borough to the general public, local organisations and community groups, including minority and BAME groups.

Honorary Alderman Toms is a firm supporter of the Mayoresses' Committee and Charity Fundraising events for the Mayor's Special Appeal. He continues to serve as a Trustee of the Mayor's Charity Fund providing valuable advice and a wealth of experience of many areas of the Council.

In 2006, Honorary Alderman Toms became Trustee of Welldon Activities Group for adults with learning difficulties and continues in this role today. In addition, he has maintained his interest in Gateway, an organisation for people with learning difficulties.

### **3. Process**

- 3.1 If the Council wished to proceed with the conferment of the title of Freedom of the Borough a resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the members who vote on the resolution at this Special meeting of the Council.

3.2 This report is submitted with the support of the Mayor, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Conservative Group.

#### **4. Financial and Legal Implications**

4.1 There is no specific provision for any expenditure arising from this matter and budget provision will have to be sourced within current resources. All legal implications are as contained in this report.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

None.

#### **Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

#### **Council Priorities**

1. Tackling poverty and inequality
2. Addressing health and social care inequality

#### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name: Dawn Calvert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief Financial Officer
Date: 30 June 2020		
Name: Hugh Peart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date: 8 July 2020		

#### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Alison Atherton, Senior Professional Democratic Services, Tel: 020 8424 1266 email: alison.atherton@harrow.gov.uk

**Background Papers:** None