

Honorary Freedom of the City

Purpose

- 1.1 The Honorary Freedom of the City is the most prestigious honour that can be bestowed upon an unelected person by the council. Cities across the United Kingdom are able to grant this honour to a worthy recipient following a decision of Council.
- 1.2 Council agreed at its last meeting, on 27 September 2018, to summon an Extraordinary Meeting so the Honorary Freedom of the City can be granted to Mr Reg Harrison.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To confer on Mr Reg Harrison the Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby under powers vested upon the authority under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.2 To note that contact will be made with Mr Harrison in order for a civic reception to be arranged when he will receive the honour from the Mayor of Derby.

Reason

- 3.1 Under the Local Government Act 1972, Honorary Freedom of the City must be granted at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council.

Supporting information

- 4.1 To bestow the status of Honorary Freeman of the City on any person, Council has to be satisfied that they are a person of distinction or a person who has, in Council's opinion, given eminent services to the city.
- 4.2 Mr Reg Harrison is the last surviving member of Derby County's FA Cup winning team of 1946. On their route to the final, Derby defeated Luton Town, West Bromwich Albion, Brighton and Hove Albion, Aston Villa and Birmingham City. They beat Charlton Athletic 4-1 after extra-time in the final at Wembley on 27 April 1946. During their cup run, a cumulative total attendance of 500,000 people were recorded.

- 4.3 Born in Normanton, Reg Harrison originally played for the non-league team Derby Corinthians while working as a decorator. He signed for Derby County aged 16, turning professional in 1944 while also serving in the Army. He also made guest wartime appearances for Sheffield United, Notts County, Charlton Athletic and Hartepools United.
- 4.4 During a distinguished career with the Rams, playing on the right wing, Reg Harrison scored 59 goals in 281 games in all competitions. He later played for Boston United before returning to Derbyshire to join Long Eaton United, where he became player manager. He also managed local team Wilmorton & Alvaston as well as Alfreton Town.
- 4.5 Mr Harrison later worked for this authority's Youth Service, establishing the Youth Centre on Stockbrook Recreation Ground in the late 1960s known simply as "Reg's". He later moved to Chaddesden, where he established Chesapeake Youth Club and football club.
- 4.6 It is considered that Mr Harrison's exemplary careers in football, local government and the voluntary service fully justify bestowing on him the status of Honorary Freeman.
- 4.7 The council has previously used its powers under the 1972 Act to grant Honorary Freedom of the City to two other people:
- Football manager Brian Clough, to mark his success in transforming Derby County from a Second Division team into English League Champions in 1972 and European contenders thereafter;
 - Swimmer Adam Peaty, following his multiple successes at the Commonwealth Games, European and World Championships, culminating in his Gold Medal-winning performance at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Not applicable – the recommendation arises directly from a motion put to Council on 27 September 2018.

Other options

- 6.1 None.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None, aside from the small cost of hosting a Civic Reception for Mr Harrison.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The main requirements of the Local Government Act are set out in the report. The resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Council voting in favour. The council has power to spend a reasonable sum on a formal presentation.

Other significant implications

9.1 None.