

## **Committee: Council**

**Date: 10 July 2013**

Agenda item: 21

Wards:

### **Subject: FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Resources

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Contact officer: David Dunford, Assistant Head of Democracy Services

Reason for Urgency: The Mayor has agreed to the submission of this item as a matter of urgency in order that arrangements may be put in place to hold a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose to admit a person to the roll of honorary freeman of the borough.

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#### **Recommendations:**

- A. That Council agree to the holding of a special meeting to admit Mr. Andy Murray as Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Merton.
  - B. That the Chief Executive is authorised to make all necessary arrangements and spend such reasonable sums as may be required to give effect to recommendation A.
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- C. That Council recognises there may be other persons deserving of consideration for the Honorary Freedom of the Borough, not least Merton residents who have made very significant contributions to our local community, but also the last British Ladies' Singles Champion at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, and therefore asks the General Purposes Committee to consider a report on this at its next meeting for recommendation to Full Council.
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#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The Council is authorised to admit a person to be an honorary freeman/freewoman of the Borough if it is the opinion the person/s have rendered eminent services to the Borough.

#### **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The conferring of honorary freeman/woman is the highest honour that the council can bestow. This report asks Council to agree to recognise the contribution made by Mr. Andy Murray. Pursuant to Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, **“the Council may by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, admit to the borough persons of distinction and persons who**

**have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the borough...”**

- 2.2. This report asks Council to agree to recognise the contribution made by Mr. Andy Murray who has won the Men’s Singles Championships in 2013, some 77 years since the last British male winner and following on from his own Olympic Gold Medal win in the Men’s Singles at the All England Lawn Tennis Club based here in Merton.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. Council is asked to agree a special meeting for the purpose detailed in this report.

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. Costs are likely to be incurred in the production of illuminated scrolls and other administration of the meeting and these costs will be contained within existing budgets.

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. See paragraph 2.1

### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- None

### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1. None