

Committee: Council

Date: 20 November 2013

Wards: All

Subject: Freedom of the Borough

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Leader of the Council

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services, 0208 545 3864

Recommendations:

A. That the Council agrees to award the Freedom of the Borough to:

- Virginia Wade
- Ann Haydon-Jones
- Angela Mortimer

and agrees to the holding of a special meeting of Council for the purposes of passing the necessary resolutions.

B. That the Council agrees that officers be instructed to report to the General Purposes Committee on future criteria and procedures for considering nominees for the freedom of the borough with a view to the Council receiving a recommendation from General Purposes Committee on the adoption of such criteria and procedures.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report responds to the instruction of the Council made on 10 July 2013 for General Purposes Committee to consider nominees for the freedom of the borough.
- 1.2. The report recommends that three former ladies champions be awarded the freedom and also recommends that criteria and procedures should be drawn up and agreed by Council for considering nominees for this award in the future.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. On 10 July 2013 the Council agreed to award the freedom of the borough to Mr Andy Murray to reflect his recent achievement in winning the men's singles title at Wimbledon. The Council also asked the General Purposes Committee to consider whether other persons, including the three other living former Wimbledon singles champions, should be offered the freedom of the borough.
- 2.2. General Purposes Committee considered this on 26 September and resolved:

(i) That the General Purposes Committee recommends to Council that the three Wimbledon ladies champions Angela Mortimer, Ann Haydon-Jones and Virginia Wade be awarded the freedom of the borough.

(ii) That the General Purposes Committee recommends to Council that officers be instructed to report to General Purposes Committee on future criteria and procedures for considering nominees for the freedom of the borough with a view to making a recommendation to Council on the adoption of such criteria and procedures.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. These matter are entirely within the discretion of the Council

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. None

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. If the Council agrees to make these awards a special meeting of the Council will need to be scheduled.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Any expenditure associated with conferring the Honorary Freedom of the Borough will be from existing budgets.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Section 249 (paragraphs 5 and 6) of the Local Government Act 1972 states:

(i) (5) The Council of a London Borough 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”

(ii) (6) The Council of a London Borough....may spend such reasonable sum as they think fit for the presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person upon whom they have conferred the title of (honorary alderman) or admitted to be an honorary freeman of the....borough...

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None

11 APPENDICES

None

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None