

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Proposal to create an Honorary Freewoman and an Honorary Freeman	
Key Decision	no	Item No.
Ward	n/a	
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: November 22 2017

1. Summary

The Council is asked to consider a proposal from the Mayor to create a new Honorary Freewoman and a new Honorary Freeman.

2. Purpose

This report asks the Council to confer the honour and title of Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham on Wozzy Brewster and the title of Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Lewisham on Sir Ian Mills.

3. Background

3.1 Lewisham has awarded the Freedom relatively rarely compared to neighbouring boroughs. The Mayor has suggested Lewisham currently has two exceptional individuals worthy of the honour and has observed that grants of Freedom have traditionally been regarded as a civic matter and not a Party political one.

3.2 Lewisham has awarded the Freedom just thirteen times as follows:-

Alan Milner Smith, former Town Clerk (9 December 1971)

Fred Winslade, CBE, the first Leader of Lewisham Council (28 November 1975)

Daisy Hurren, long serving Councillor, (10 October 1985)

Andy Hawkins, former Leader of the Council (30 March 1990)

The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, former resident (4 May 1990)

Terry Waite, CBE (16 November 1992)

Sybil Phoenix, MBE, Community leader, (8 March 1996)

Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of St. Christopher's Hospice (10 March 2000)

Les Eytel, long serving Councillor, (8 June 2007)

Dame Doreen Lawrence, founder of the Stephen Lawrence Centre (26 June 2013)

Dame Erica Pienaar, for services to Education in Lewisham (26 June 2013)

Dame Joan Ruddock, MP for Deptford 1987 to 2015 (25 November 2015)

Bridget Prentice, MP for Lewisham East 1992 to 2010 (25 November 2015)

- 3.3 Desmond Tutu, Sybil Phoenix, Terry Waite, Doreen Lawrence, Erica Pienaar, Dame Joan Ruddock and Bridget Prentice are the surviving holders of the Freedom honour in Lewisham.

4. **Recommendations**

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:

(1) Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Sir Ian Mills be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Lewisham.

It is recommended that Sir Ian Mills be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Lewisham in recognition of his service to the Borough and its citizens over many years. He has played roles not only in Lewisham but across the city including for the London NHS. He was a transformational chair of Age Exchange leading it to become the key hub it is today for Blackheath. He has been the founding chair Youth First helping to secure quality provision for our young people. His personal contribution to its launch has been extraordinary and he continues to support our young people with an enthusiasm and a commitment that epitomizes a lifetime of service and demonstrates why he is an appropriate recipient of the highest award the borough can make.

(2) Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Wozzy Brewster OBE be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham.

It is recommended that Wozzy Brewster OBE be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham in recognition of her service to the Borough and in particular its young people. She grew up in Deptford and has been making a difference to young people here ever since helping many of them become involved in music and arts.. She founded the Midi Music Company and is still running it today. Her wider involvement in the life of the borough includes Deptford City Challenge whose board she sat on and she has also been an extraordinary ambassador for Lewisham creating and delivering international youth arts projects in Italy, Lithuania, Ireland, Germany, USA and Mauritius. She has been a marvelous source of advice, encouragement and inspiration to many in Lewisham of all ages demonstrating why she is an appropriate recipient of the highest award the borough can make.

5. **Legal Implications**

Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to admit to be Honorary Freewomen or Freemen of the Borough persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough. The award of the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman has to be

made by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.

6. Financial Implications

Section 249(9) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a relevant authority to spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom the authority has conferred the title of honorary freeman or honorary freewoman under subsection (5). It is anticipated a Freedom ceremony for each recipient will take place in 2018. All costs in relation to the creation of two a new freeman and freewomen can be met from existing budgets.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information on this item please contact: Kevin Flaherty on 0208 314 9327.