

Part A

Report to: Extraordinary Council

Date of meeting: Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Report author: Democratic Services Manager

Title: Nomination for Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Watford

1.0 Summary

1.1 The Standards Committee's terms of reference include the consideration of nominations received relating to the position of Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Watford.

1.2 On 27 January 2021 the Standards Committee considered a nomination received from Mayor Peter Taylor.

1.3 The committee unanimously recommended to Council that Luther Blissett is made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Watford.

2.0 Risks

2.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That Luther Blissett be made Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Watford.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Donna Nolan, Managing Director

4.0 Detailed proposal

4.1 Criteria which has been set by Council for the consideration of nominations for Freedom of the Borough are:

- persons who have given a lifetime of service to the Borough through their work in the community or business;

- persons who have influenced and achieved major change, which resulted in significant improvement in the social, environmental or economic wellbeing of the Borough;
- persons who have made a significant contribution to the Borough through their employment in the public services or their appointment in public office;
- a resident of the Borough who has made a significant contribution nationally to the Arts, Sport, the Voluntary Sector or Uniformed Services;
- a leading international figure who, through their actions and statesmanship would be seen as improving the wellbeing of a community, where a significant number of members of that community live in the Borough.

Candidates must be able to command respect from the people of the Borough, work as a civic figure in an ambassadorial role and be a role model for young people.

4.2 Standards Committee on 27 January considered a nomination made by the Mayor nominating Luther Blissett for the honour. The Mayor's submission presented to Standards Committee is attached at Appendix 1.

4.3 The Standards Committee unanimously recommended to Council the nomination.

4.4 Council is therefore asked to agree to Luther Blissett being made an Honorary Freeman.

4.5 If approved it would be hoped to have a formal award ceremony in the Town Hall when current COVID restrictions are lifted.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that if approved the council would usually hold a ceremony where the nominee would be given a robe and scroll this cost would need to be met from the civic expenses budget.

5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that Section 249 Local Government Act 1972 requires that the matter is considered at a special meeting of the Council convened for the purpose and that at least two thirds of those members present must support the recommendation for the honour to be bestowed.

5.3 Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection

5.3.1 Having had regard to the council's obligations under s149, it is considered that there are no equalities implications in this report.

5.4 Staffing

5.4.1 Not applicable.

5.5 Accommodation

5.5.1 Not applicable.

5.6 Community Safety/Crime and Disorder

5.6.1 Not applicable.

5.7 Sustainability

5.7.1 Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Elected Mayor's written submission nominating Luther Blissett

Background papers

Standards Committee 27 January 2021 – report and minutes