

# Special Meeting of Council

## LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>Civic Awards</b>	
<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	<b>29 March 2023</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Nominations –Civic Awards</b>	
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense</b> Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Adrian May</b> Interim Head of Democratic Service Adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk	
<b>DECISION TAKER:</b>	Nominations from The Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee are to be considered and agreed at a Special Meeting of Council	
<b>CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?</b>	<b>No</b>	Public
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	N/A	

### 1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1** Croydon Council operates a civic awards scheme, which includes an Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen scheme and Freedom of the Borough award. The Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee has the responsibility of agreeing and submitting nominations for the honorary titles at a Special Council meeting.
- 1.2** Nominees for the award/s for consideration at this Special Council Meeting were recommended at the meeting of the Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee on the 21 March 2023 and the 24 March 2023 (*being the reconvened scheduled date at publication*).

### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons set out in the report and Appendix A, Council is recommended by The Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee to:

- 2.1** Agree, under and by virtue of the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, to confer the title, as indicated, of Honorary Alderman / Alderwomen / Freeman / Freewomen of The London Borough of Croydon to the named individuals listed in **Appendix A**.

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Responsibility is with The Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee to receive nomination from Members for any honorary awards, review and agreement at this Special Council Meeting allows for the preparation and invites to the award ceremony - as part of the Annual Council Meeting May 2023.

### **4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS**

- 4.1 In line with the London Borough of Croydon Constitution (paragraph 6.1 Part 4A, Council Procedure Rules) nominations for the awards of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen must be people who are former elected members of the London Borough of Croydon, who have either:
- 4.1.1 Rendered eminent service in their capacity as Member, considering the contribution they have made to the borough, including roles served and how their service rendered is above and beyond that expected of all Members; or,
  - 4.1.2 Served a period of twelve years on the Council.
- 4.2 Freedom of the Borough is an award dedicated to 'Persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to Croydon'. No nominations were received at this time.
- 4.3 The recommended recipients and reasons are detailed in Appendix A.
- 4.4 Whilst no legal provision exists for the conveying of the title 'Aldersperson' or 'Freeperson', if a nominee for a civic award requested a gender-neutral term, the Council in communications and the citation would seek to use the term.

### **5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

### **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The nominations were asked from the political groups which had previously serving Members of Croydon Council.

### **7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 Honorary title schemes give recognition to individuals and a thank you from the communities they serve. It supports the Mayor's Corporate Plan, through supporting

Priority 2: Becoming a council which listens to, respects and works in partnership with Croydon’s diverse communities and businesses.

## 8. IMPLICATIONS

### 8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

**8.1.1** Finance have reviewed the report. All financial implications (production of award recipient certificates) can be met with existing budgets.

#### 8.1.2 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendation

	Current Year	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast		
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26
Revenue Budget Available	3	3	3	3
Expenditure to Date	0	0	0	0
Effect of decision from report – maximum	2.4	0	0	0
Remaining Budget	0.6	3	3	3

**8.1.3** Comments approved Lesley Shields, Head of Finance - Assistant Chief Executive & Resources on behalf of the Director of Finance. 10/03/2023

### 8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

**8.2.1** Under Section 249 (honorary titles) (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act), the Council may confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary alderwomen on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a Council meeting specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object. Under Section 249(5) of the 1972 Act the Council may admit persons of distinction, and persons who have, in the Council’s opinion, rendered eminent services to Croydon to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of Croydon, again by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it, at a specially convened meeting where notice of the object of the meeting has been given.

**8.2.2** Comments approved by the Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date 03/03/2023)

## 8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Sec 149 Equality Act 2010. The Council must therefore have due regard to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.3.2 Generally, when identifying and making nominations for honorary civic awards, it would be advisable, whenever possible, that Members and Council consider the diverse communities within their authority area and nominations be reflective of the contributions by residents and organisations across communities.

Denise McCausland Equality Programme Manager 13/03/2023

## 9. APPENDICES

9.1 **Nominations** - Appendix A (**TO FOLLOW** - in *Supplementary Council Agenda Publication*)

## 10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 N/A

## 11. URGENCY

11.1 N/A