

SPECIAL COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3

30 April 2009

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Honorary Freeman
Date of Meeting: 30 April 2009
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Mark Wall Tel: 29-1006
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Key Decision: Yes/No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report asks Council to confer the honour and title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove on Mr Henry Allingham in recognition of his exceptional services during both World Wars and his work to ensure future generations do not forget the debt owed to all those who gave their lives to ensure freedom for all.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Council admits Mr Henry Allingham to be an Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Mr. Allingham is a World War One Veteran and the last surviving member of the British Air Services, having been a founder member of the Royal Air Force. He is also the oldest living person in the country and has resided at St. Dunstan's in Ovingdean since May 2006 following the loss of his sight.
- 3.2 Mr. Allingham has worked with the veterans associations to ensure that later generations would not forget the loss and destruction caused by World War 1. He has been the recipient of a number of honours and awards, including the Gold Medal of Saint-Omer, Freedom of Eastbourne, the Legion d'honneur (France's highest military award), Pride of Britain Award and honorary membership of the Fleet Air Arm Association.
- 3.3 Mr Allingham has come to symbolise the sacrifices made by generations of British men and women and is a person of distinction recognised nationally. Through his work and example he has rendered exceptional services to the Country and the City, which is where he resides. It is therefore proposed that the Council honours him by admitting him to be a Freeman of the City.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 All the Group Leaders have been consulted about the proposed admission of Mr. Allingham to be a freeman of the City and were in agreement.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 07/04/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to admit to be honorary freemen of the City persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered imminent services to the City. The award of the title of Honorary Freeman has to be done 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.

Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorgis

Date: 07/03/094

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There are none arising directly from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are none arising directly from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are none arising directly from this report.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are none arising directly from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 There are none arising directly from this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Background Documents

None