

*Cabinet and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A  
Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**

Report Subject: **Freedom of the Borough Cross Party Working Group**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor S. Thomas – Leader/Cabinet Member – Corporate & Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Ceri Edwards-Brown - Democratic Officer**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
							26.09.24	

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 To present the recommendation of the Freedom of the Borough Cross Party Working Group for consideration in respect of an application received to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on an individual (posthumously).
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 The Freedom of the County Borough is the honorary title given to a person or organisation of distinction who has rendered outstanding services to the Borough. The honour does not confer any legal rights but is the highest tribute a Borough can bestow.
  - 2.2 Historically, due to the infrequent nature of requests to award the Freedom of the County Borough, the Council adopted a protocol outlining the approach for considering all future requests received. This included the establishment of a Cross Party Working Group to consider requests and presentation of the recommendation to Full Council for formal consideration.
  - 2.3 If the recommendation to grant approval is agreed, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council will be convened to bestow the honour.
  - 2.4 In addition, as a proactive approach going forward, Members of the Working Group have proposed to meet on a bi-annual basis to consider applications received for the Freedom of the Borough.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

#### 3.1 **Freedom of the Borough**

To consider the recommendation to bestow the honour on Ray Reardon (posthumously).

**Option 1a:** To agree the recommendation of the Cross Party Working Group to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on Ray Reardon (posthumously).

**Option 1b:** To not agree the recommendation of the Cross Party Working Group to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on Ray Reardon (posthumously).

#### 3.2 **Frequency of Meetings**

To consider the recommendation of the Cross Party Working Group to meet on a bi-annual basis.

**Option 2a:** To agree the recommendation that the Freedom of the Borough Cross Party Working Group meet on a bi-annual basis to consider applications received.

**Option 2b:** To not agree the recommendation that the Freedom of the Borough Cross Party Working Group meet on a bi-annual basis to consider applications received.

### 4. ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

- 4.1 There is a cost associated with bestowing the Freedom of the Borough. There is currently no dedicated budget available to support this and, therefore, any expenditure incurred will need to be identified from within the existing resources.

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1 Report of Freedom of the Borough Cross Party Working Group*

**FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP**

**Report of Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D. Bevan  
J. Hill  
L. Parsons  
C. Smith  
D. Wilkshire

**AND:** Democratic Officer

**CHAIR**

It was AGREED that Councillor Chris Smith take the Chair.

**FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH – APPLICATION**

The Working Group considered the following application:

**Ray Reardon**

Members were advised that an application had been received to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on Welsh professional snooker player, Ray Reardon (posthumously). Ray had been born in Tredegar and had made a great contribution to the world of snooker not only in Tredegar but throughout Wales and globally. Ray had dominated the sport of snooker for the best part of a decade winning six World Snooker Championships between 1970 and 1978 and more than a dozen other professional titles over the course of his career. Members agreed that in recognition of his great contribution to snooker, Ray should be awarded the Freedom of the Borough (posthumously).

**Frequency of Meetings**

A discussion ensued regarding the frequency of meetings and Members agreed that the Working Group should meet on a bi-annual basis in order to consider applications received for the Freedom of the Borough.

Upon a vote being taken, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the:

- (i) application to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on the Ray Reardon posthumously be acceded to; and
- (ii) the Freedom of the Borough Cross Party Working Group meet on a bi-annual basis to consider applications received.

The Chair, thereupon, thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

