

Honorary Freedom of the City

Purpose

- 1.1 The Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby is the most prestigious honour that can be bestowed upon an unelected person by the Council. Local authorities across the United Kingdom can grant this honour to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent services to their local areas.
- 1.2 Council has previously agreed to summon Extraordinary Meetings so that Honorary Freedom of the City may be granted to Mr Wayne Rooney, Ms Sandy Ryan and the Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret Beckett MP.
- 1.3 This report sets out the legislative basis upon which awards for Honorary Freedom must be made. It is for the Full Council to determine whether they wish to proceed with conferring Honorary Freedom to the three individuals previously nominated.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To determine whether Council wishes to pass the following resolutions, under powers vested upon the authority under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972:
 1. *Council resolves to confer on Mr Wayne Rooney the Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby*
 2. *Council resolves to confer on Ms Sandy Ryan the Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby*
 3. *Council resolves to confer on the Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret Beckett MP the Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby.*
- 2.2 To note that contact will be made with recipients of the awards for a civic reception to be arranged, when they will receive the honour from the Mayor of Derby.

Reasons

- 3.1 Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Honorary Freedom of the City must be granted at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council specially convened for the purpose.

Supporting information

- 4.1 To bestow the status of Honorary Freeman of the City on any person, Council has to be satisfied that they are a person of distinction or a person who has, in Council's opinion, given eminent services to the city.
- 4.2 The Council has previously used its powers under the 1972 Act to grant Honorary Freedom of the City to three other individuals:
- Football manager Brian Clough, to mark his success in transforming Derby County from a Second Division team into English League Champions in 1972 and European contenders thereafter;
 - Swimmer Adam Peaty, following his multiple successes at the Commonwealth Games, European and World Championships, culminating in his Gold Medal-winning performance at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.
 - Footballer Reg Harrison, who was the last surviving member of Derby County's FA Cup winning team of 1946 and who subsequently worked as part of the Council's Youth Service, establishing several youth centres and junior football clubs across Derby.

Wayne Rooney

- 4.3 At its meeting of 25 May 2022, Council resolved to award Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby to football manager, Wayne Rooney. Minute extract 21/22 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 During an unprecedented footballing career, Mr Rooney became the record goal scorer for both Manchester United and the England national team. In August 2019, he joined Derby County as a player-coach before being appointed as permanent manager of the club in January 2021 and retiring as an active player. Under Mr Rooney's leadership, Derby County narrowly avoided relegation on the last day of the 2020-21 season.
- 4.5 Preparation for the following season was thrown into disarray by the possibility of English Football League (EFL) sanctions regarding breaches of financial fair play regulations and the imposition of a transfer embargo. In September 2021, it was announced that Derby County would be placed into administration and incur an automatic 12-point deduction. Further points penalties were applied by the EFL later in the season. Protracted negotiations followed with several parties interested in purchasing the club out of administration. Despite battling performances on the pitch, Derby County were relegated to League One in April 2022, seven points from safety.
- 4.6 Mr Rooney was recognised by the Council for his commitment to the club and its fans during this turbulent period. In June 2022, he resigned his position shortly before the club was purchased out of administration by local businessman David Clowes. Following a period managing in the United States, Mr Rooney was recently appointed as the manager of Birmingham City.

Sandy Ryan

- 4.7 At its meeting of 24 May 2023, Council resolved to award Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby to boxer, Sandy Ryan. Minute extract 20/23 is attached at Appendix 1.

- 4.8 Ms Ryan is the current World Boxing Organisation (WBO) Women's Welterweight Champion, having won the title via a unanimous points decision in April 2023. In her seven professional bouts to date, she has won six. Before turning professional, Ms Ryan was a Commonwealth Games gold medallist at welterweight and a World Championship silver medallist at light-welterweight.
- 4.9 Born in Derby in 1993, Ms Ryan proudly represents the city and speaks publicly about her strong sense of local identity. The Council previously recognised her discipline, perseverance and good sportsmanship.

Dame Margaret Beckett

- 4.10 At its meeting of 19 July 2023, Council resolved to award Honorary Freedom of the City to politician, Dame Margaret Beckett MP. Minute extract 33/23 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.11 Dame Margaret has served as the Member of Parliament for Derby South since 1983, having previously been elected as the MP for Lincoln between 1974 and 1979. During her lengthy Parliamentary career, Dame Margaret has served as a minister in four Labour Governments.
- 4.12 In 1976, Dame Margaret was appointed to her first ministerial role, serving as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science under Harold Wilson's premiership. In 1984, Dame Margaret was appointed as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Following the 1992 general election, she was elected as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and served as Shadow Leader of the House of Commons. After the sudden death of John Smith in May 1994, Dame Margaret became Acting Leader of the Labour Party and would later contest the party leadership against Tony Blair and John Prescott.
- 4.13 Following the 1997 General Election, Dame Margaret would hold several senior positions in Tony Blair's government. Between 2001 and 2006 she would serve as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, before being appointed as Foreign Secretary in 2006, becoming the first woman to hold the role and only the second to occupy one of the four great offices of state.
- 4.14 Since leaving Government, Dame Margaret has continued to be a prominent voice within the Labour Party and has occupied various public roles. In 1993 she was appointed to the Privy Council and in the 2013 New Year Honours made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.
- 4.15 During her tenure, Dame Margaret was regularly seen attending events and hosting advice surgeries in Derby, often alongside her late husband Leo Beckett. Having graduated with a degree in metallurgy and taken up her first role within the Labour Party as a researcher in industrial policy, Dame Margaret has regularly championed the city's transport engineering industry. She has stated her intention to stand down from Parliament at the next General Election.

Debate and Determination

- 4.16 The normal rules of debate will apply when considering the draft motions detailed at recommendation 2.1, together with any amendments that may be proposed. It is recommended that they are moved and debated separately.
- 4.17 A two-thirds majority of voting councillors is required to pass a resolution to award Honorary Freedom of the City. The table below details the number of votes required for the motions to be carried:

Number of voting councillors	Votes required for resolution to be carried.
51, 50	34
49	33
47, 48	32
46	31
45, 44	30
43	29
42, 41	28
40	27
38, 39	26
37	25
35, 36	24
34	23
32, 33	22
31	21
29, 30	20
28	19
26, 27	18
25	17
23, 24	16

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Not applicable – the recommendation arises directly from prior resolutions of Council.

Other options

- 6.1 To not proceed with the award of Honorary Freedom for the three individuals previously nominated.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None directly arising. The cost of a Civic Reception will be delivered from within the Council's existing budget for civic events.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The main requirements of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 are set out in the report. The resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of members who vote on it. The council has power to spend a reasonable sum on a formal presentation.

Climate implications

- 9.1 None directly arising.

Socio-Economic implications

- 10.1 None directly arising.

Other significant implications

- 11.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Emily Feenan, Director of Corporate Governance, Property and Procurement	8 September 2023
Report sponsor	Paul Simpson, Chief Executive	12 September 2023
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Full Council minute extracts 21/22, 20/23 and 33/23

ITEM 3 - Appendix 1

Minute extracts

COUNCIL

25 May 2022

21/22 Motion: Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby

The following motion was moved by Councillor Hassall, and seconded by Councillor Smale:

The unprecedented uncertainty and challenging times that have recently been experienced by Derby County Football Club have been a worrying and troubling time for supporters and non-supporters alike.

It goes without saying that the Club remains part of the fabric of the city's history and DNA and brings joy (and occasionally despair) to the faithful who attend Pride Park with their season ticket in hand and hope in their hearts season after season. The far-reaching benefits that the club brings to the city cannot be understated both to the economy and individual alike.

In a time when all of this was under threat, it has not gone unnoticed that Wayne Rooney has been steadfast in his loyalty, support and determination to ensure he and the team remain committed to both the club and fans, when others may have easily and understandably taken an easier path and parted company for a less complicated set of circumstances.

Wayne Rooney has demonstrated that his integrity, passion and unquestionable loyalty for Derby County Football Club, fans and the city is absolute and we could not have asked for a better figurehead to champion our cause and lead in all senses of the word, during such perilous times.

To Wayne Rooney, this city gives its wholehearted thanks and in recognition of our gratitude we would like to bestow one of our oldest and highest honours to someone we are all proud to say is one of our own. Wayne Rooney you are a Ram.

Council therefore resolves to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City of Derby to Mr Wayne Rooney at a specially convened meeting of the Council, to be arranged at a mutually convenient time following this meeting.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

The unprecedented uncertainty and challenging times that have recently been experienced by Derby County Football Club have been a worrying and troubling time for supporters and non-supporters alike.

It goes without saying that the Club remains part of the fabric of the city's history and DNA and brings joy (and occasionally despair) to the faithful who attend Pride Park with their season ticket in hand and hope in their hearts season after season. The far-reaching benefits that the club brings to the city cannot be understated both to the economy and individual alike.

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Council therefore resolves to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City of Derby to Mr Wayne Rooney at a specially convened meeting of the Council, to be arranged at a mutually convenient time following this meeting.

ENDS

COUNCIL

24 May 2023

20/23 Motion: Honorary Freedom of the City of Derby

The following motion was moved by Councillor Atwal, and seconded by Councillor Lonsdale:

Derby has a proud history in the sporting world. Sandy Ryan has continued that tradition by becoming WBO Welterweight Champion of the World in April this year. Our very own Commonwealth gold medallist. She is an example to all, of what discipline, perseverance and good sportsmanship can achieve. She represents the best of this city.

As Sandy adds to the long list of women that this city holds in high honour we propose that the oldest and highest honour that we have to bestow should be awarded to her.

This Council resolves to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City to Miss Sandy Ryan at a specially convened meeting of the Council, to be arranged at a mutually convenient time following this meeting.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

Derby has a proud history in the sporting world. Sandy Ryan has continued that tradition by becoming WBO Welterweight Champion of the World in April this year. Our very own Commonwealth gold medallist. She is an example to all, of what discipline, perseverance and good sportsmanship can achieve. She represents the best of this city.

As Sandy adds to the long list of women that this city holds in high honour we propose that the oldest and highest honour that we have to bestow should be awarded to her.

This Council resolves to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City to Miss Sandy Ryan at a specially convened meeting of the Council, to be arranged at a mutually convenient time following this meeting.

ENDS

COUNCIL

19 July 2023

33/23 Motion: Freedom of the City of Derby

The following motion was moved by Councillor Shanker, and seconded by Councillor Peatfield:

Council recognises the contribution of Dame Margaret Beckett to the City of Derby, having served as the Member of Parliament for the Derby South constituency for more than 40 years.

During that time Dame Margaret has served her constituents with diligence and tenacity, championing Derby's manufacturing industries on the national stage and steadfastly maintaining her commitment to hosting regular advice surgeries for the people of our city.

In her long and distinguished Parliamentary career, Dame Margaret has served as a Minister in four Labour Governments and in 1994 became the first woman to lead the Labour Party. In 2006, she was appointed as the first female Foreign Secretary and only the second woman to hold one of the Great Offices of State. Council thanks Dame Margaret for her service to the nation and is proud of her record as a trailblazer for women's representation.

Council notes Dame Margaret's intention to stand down from Parliament at the next General Election and wishes her a long and healthy retirement. In recognition of her contribution to Derby and to the United Kingdom, Council resolves to award Freedom of the City to the Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett MP at a specially convened meeting, to be arranged in due course.

It was moved by Councillor Shanker and seconded by at least 10 members that under Council Procedure Rule CP71a the votes of councillors on the motion were noted and recorded.

For the motion: Councillors Amin, Ashby, Bolton, Bonser, Chambers, Dhindsa, Hezelgrave, Kaur, J Khan, S Khan, Kozlowski, Martin, Nawaz, Onuoha, Peatfield, Rawson, Repton, Sandhu, Shanker, Swan, Whitby, Wilson and C Wright (23).

Against the motion: Councillors Care, Eyre, Fowke, Hassall, A Holmes, M Holmes, Hudson, Kus, Lindsey, Mulhall, Pandey, Pattison, Pearce, Potter, Prosser, Roulstone, Smale, Trehella and J Wright (19).

Abstentions: Councillors C Ingall, P Ingall, Lakin and Graves (4).

Resolved:

Council recognises the contribution of Dame Margaret Beckett to the City of Derby, having served as the Member of Parliament for the Derby South constituency for more than 40 years.

During that time Dame Margaret has served her constituents with diligence and tenacity, championing Derby's manufacturing industries on the national stage and

steadfastly maintaining her commitment to hosting regular advice surgeries for the people of our city.

In her long and distinguished Parliamentary career, Dame Margaret has served as a Minister in four Labour Governments and in 1994 became the first woman to lead the Labour Party. In 2006, she was appointed as the first female Foreign Secretary and only the second woman to hold one of the Great Offices of State. Council thanks Dame Margaret for her service to the nation and is proud of her record as a trailblazer for women's representation.

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ENDS