

Freedom of the City

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Freedom of the City is the most prestigious honour that can be bestowed upon an unelected person by the council. Cities across the United Kingdom are able to grant this honour to a worthy recipient following a decision of Council.
- 1.2 It is proposed that Adam Peaty, who returned from the recent Olympic Games in Rio with a gold medal for the 100m breast stroke and silver medal for the 100m medley relay, be granted the Freedom the City of Derby.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree the principle that Adam Peaty shall be granted the Freedom of the City of Derby and to request the Mayor of Derby to agree an Extraordinary Meeting of Council for the formal ratification, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972..
- 2.2 To authorise officers to make arrangements for an appropriate reception involving all councillors at which Mr Peaty will receive the presentation, and to also celebrate the role of City of Derby Swimming Club coach Melanie Marshall in his unprecedented success.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To celebrate Adam Peaty's achievements.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Freedom of the City

- 4.1 The Freedom of the City can be granted by the council to individuals who it considers to be worthy of the prestigious award.

- 4.2 Derby has only previously granted the Freedom of the City to one person – former Derby County manager Brian Clough to mark his success in transforming the football club from a Second Division team into English League Champions and European contenders.

Adam Peaty

- 4.3 Adam Peaty hails from the region, being born and raised in Uttoxeter. He has had links with Derby for several years and is a former student of Derby College.
- 4.4 Mr Peaty has been a member of the City of Derby Swimming Club since he was 14 years old, having been trained during that period by the former Olympic swimmer Melanie Marshall.
- 4.5 Mr Peaty has come to increasing prominence in recent years, winning the 100m breaststroke at the Commonwealth Games in 2014 and also being European Champion in both 2014 and 2016 and World Champion in 2015. He has also enjoyed success in the 50m breaststroke, becoming European Champion in 2014 and World Champion in 2015.
- 4.6 His success reached new levels at the Rio Olympics, as Mr Peaty became Olympic champion in the 100m event, becoming the only Briton ever to hold concurrent gold medals for the same event at Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth levels.
- 4.7 As a result of his various successes, Mr Peaty is the present World Record holder at 50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke and in the 4x100m mixed medley relay.
- 4.8 It is felt that a civic reception alone would be insufficient to mark the unprecedented success that Mr Peaty has achieved, the reflected glory that success has brought to the City of Derby Swimming Club and the hope and incentive this will offer future generations. The Freedom of the City is rarely granted but it is felt that its awarding is justified in this case.
- 4.9 The role that Melanie Marshall has played in Mr Peaty's success should not go unnoticed. It is proposed that she too should be receive a commendation from the Mayor at the event at which Mr Peaty is granted his Freedom of the City.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Hold a civic reception. This is considered to be insufficient under these unprecedented circumstances, as detailed in the report.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 A civic ceremony and presentation of awards would need to be met from existing budgets within Civic Services. The levels of cost will fall well below the threshold requiring any member authorisation.

Legal

- 2.1 None.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

IT

- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 Celebrating the success of Adam Peaty demonstrates the city's delight at his achievements and gratitude for the inspiration he has provided to future generations.

