

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-2017

Extraordinary Council Meeting
25th January, 2017

Agenda Item:3

NOMINATION FOR FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH.
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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS

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POTENTIAL NOMINATION FOR FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise and seek Members approval in respect of the recommendations of the Freedom of the Borough Working Group, which met on the 19th January 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Support the recommendations of the Freedom of the Borough Working Group in awarding the accolade of Freedom of the County Borough to Mr David Roberts CBE and the Cory Band.
- 2.2 Support the Working Group's recommendation of bestowing recognition to all Paralympic athletes who have proudly represented Team GB
- 2.3 Subject to agreement to 2.1 and 2.2 of the report, to utilise the 'Rhondda Cynon Taf Citizen Award' ceremony to bestow the accolade of Freedom of the Borough to Mr David Roberts CBE and the Cory Band, with a separate award to honour all Paralympians, at a date to be agreed.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest accolade that the County Borough can bestow and is usually granted for outstanding service to, or achievement associated with, the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is generally considered that the number of people receiving this status should be few in number to maintain the importance of the accolade. To date, the Freedom of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf has been awarded to the Royal Welsh Regiment, Stuart Burrows, the Miners of South Wales, Elaine Morgan OBE, the Welsh Guards, Bernard Baldwin MBE, 'Dai' Dower MBE.
- 3.2 Conferring the Freedom of the Borough is a function of Full Council, which delegated the consideration and decision on nominations to a working group chaired by the Mayor, exercised by this group. The Group is to then submit a recommendation to Full Council, which will decide on whether to award the Freedom of the County Borough to any individual or organisation.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 At the meeting on the 19th January, 2017 Members of the Working Group gave consideration to the following nominations received:
- Cory Band
 - David Roberts CBE
 - Paralympians from RCT
 - RIO 2016 Paralympians
- 4.2 Following consideration of the nominations put forward for the reasons outlined in the report, the group unanimously agreed to recommend to Council at its meeting on the 25th January, 2017 that both the Cory Band and David Roberts CBE be awarded the accolade of Freedom of the Borough.
- 4.3 Members of the Working Group strongly felt that the Ceremony should also host recognition to all Paralympians who have shown talent and commitment, whilst actively promoting Rhondda Cynon Taff to world media.

5. MAYOR'S RHONDDA CYNON TAF CITIZEN AWARD – GOING FORWARD.

- 5.1 During the 2015/16 Municipal Year the then Mayor, County Borough Councillor Barry Stephens initiated the Mayor's Good Citizen Awards to recognise the achievements and contributions made by local residents to their communities. A number of individuals were recognised with this award at the same ceremony as the Freedom of Borough last year.

- 5.2 The awards were well received in their first year where individuals were selected by the Mayor and his Civic Office based upon the supporting information received as part of the nomination process.
- 5.3 The Working Group agreed to propose to Council, that a formal public process be developed and promoted to seek nominations for no more than six specific categories of award for 2016/17.
- 5.4 It was proposed that if taken forward, the award ceremony would take place during March, 2017.

6 CONCLUSION

Rhondda Cynon Taf has a proud record of recognising and honouring those who have given extraordinary service to the County Borough and has a well established tradition of conferring the Freedom of the Borough on worthy candidates. This accolade is highly prestigious and is intentionally relatively scarcely awarded to preserve its importance.
