

AGENDA ITEM 8

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28TH FEBRUARY 2018

NOMINATION FOR FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS.

Author: Emma Wilkins, Executive & Regulatory Business Unit

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 15th February, 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Support the recommendation of the Freedom of the Borough Working Group in awarding the accolade of Freedom of the County Borough to RAF St Athan.

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 and Bernard Baldwin MBE, Matthew James, Dai Dower, The Cory Band and David Roberts CBE.

- 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. The Working Group then submits a recommendation to Full Council, which decides on whether to award the Freedom of the County Borough to any individual or organisation.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 At the Working Group meeting held on the [15th February, 2018](#) Members gave consideration to the nomination received in respect of RAF St Athan.
- 4.2 Members discussed the nomination and considered widening the nomination to include both the Royal Air Force and RAF St Athan in order to recognise the ultimate sacrifice many air force men and woman gave for the freedom of the Country, also recognising both the Royal Air Force centenary and the RAF St Athan's 80th anniversary.
- 4.3 Following deliberations of the nominations put forward and for the reasons outlined above, the group unanimously agreed to recommend to Council that RAF St Athan and the Royal Air Force be awarded the accolade of Freedom of the Borough.
- 4.4 Following the meeting, advice has been sought from the Royal Air Force in respect of the accolade and officers have been advised that due to Royal Air Force protocol such an accolade could not be accepted. It is therefore recommended that the original nomination be put forward to Council, that the Freedom of the Borough be awarded to RAF St Athan

5. 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.
