



**Special Meeting of Full Council**  
24 June 2013

**Supplementary to the  
Report from Director of Legal and  
Procurement**  
[to update para 3.2 of the original report]

For Action

Wards Affected: ALL

**Proposed Conferment of Honorary Freedom of the London  
Borough of Brent**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The conferment of Honorary Freedom of the Borough is to recognise persons of distinction who have rendered eminent services and have a connection to the London Borough of Brent. The power to award the honour of Freedom of the Borough is contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. To invoke the provisions of Section 249 it is required that a Special Meeting of the Full Council be convened for the purpose.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council of the London Borough of Brent:
- (i) invoke the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Brent on Nelson Mandela in recognition of his dedication and work in relation to freedom of speech and democracy over many years and that this honour of Freedom of the Borough be now so conferred on Mr Nelson Mandela.
  - (ii) subject to (i) above, the granting of the Freedom be presented in an illuminated Scroll and decorated casket.

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 Conferring the title of Honorary Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour that the Council can bestow and so should not be taken lightly. The London Borough of Brent previously recommended that the freedom of the Borough be presented to Nelson Mandela in 1990, but due to legal reasons at that time this was not possible. The Council did obtain an illuminated scroll and casket at this time and it is proposed that this scroll and casket along with updated documentation be used.

- 3.2 Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela first came to Willesden in 1962, where he addressed the Trades Council. In 1981, the Council named Mandela Close, Willesden, after him. On his release from Robben Island, Cape Town, he came to London to thank the people of Britain and the Anti-Apartheid Movement here for their longstanding protest and pressure for his release. He attended a celebration concert at Wembley Stadium and Council Leader Councillor Dorman Long, Deputy Leader, Councillor Pam Jordan and Mayor, Councillor Len Williams, were all introduced to him. It was following that visit that the original proposal to confer the Freedom of Brent Council was proposed by Councillor Long on behalf of the Labour Group in April 1990. The purpose of this presentation is to acknowledge the work, dedication and achievements of Nelson Mandela in respect of democracy, equality and freedom of speech.
- 3.3 It will be noted as a requirement of Section 249(7) that if the Authority is to proceed with the conferment of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough a special meeting of the Council must be convened for the purpose. A formal vote on the object of conferring the honour must be recorded. The resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the members of council present and voting.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Section 249(6) of the Act permits the Council to spend such reasonable sum it thinks fit for the purpose of conferring the title of honorary freeman of the borough. Since the scroll and casket are already available there is no current cost to the council.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 1972, section 249(5), permits the Council, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, to confer the title of honorary freeman on persons of distinction who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the borough.

#### **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 There are no diversity implications arising from this report.

#### **Background Papers**

None

#### **Contact Officer:**

Peter Goss  
Democratic Services Manager  
020 8937 1353  
peter.goss@brent.gov.uk

**Fiona Ledden**  
**Director of Legal and Procurement**