

# Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**22 September 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Nominations for Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust for the status of Freedom of the Borough
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Johane Gandiwa <a href="mailto:Johane_gandiwa@sandwell.gov.uk">Johane_gandiwa@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations


- 1.1 That the Committee considers recommending that Council confer the status of Freedom of the Borough to Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 In accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the authority to admit suitably qualified persons to the status of Freedom of the Borough.
- 2.2 The Committee is invited to indicate whether it would wish to confirm the title on any person or persons. If the Committee wishes to nominate a suitable person, it is recommended that an extraordinary meeting of Council is held on 24 October 2023, prior to the ordinary meeting of Council. The Council will consider this Committee's recommendations and, if appropriate, pass the necessary statutory resolutions required by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.



### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Nominations for Freedom of the Borough are an endorsement of the eminent service and commitment to the residents of Sandwell.
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### 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, consider the admittance of persons to be the status of Freedom of the Borough. The persons should be of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Borough.
- 4.2 The National Health Service celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> July. As such, Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust was nominated for Freedom of the Borough (Sandwell) for the selfless public services it has given and commitment shown to Sandwell residents over the years
- 4.3 The NHS overall and in turn the Trust, is a kind, caring, compassionate and great institution that every resident of Sandwell has reason to be proud of.
- 4.4 Bestowing this honour on the Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust acknowledges the hard work, devotion and impact the NHS and the Trust, particularly its staff, has had on Sandwell residents.
- 4.5 This honour, which is the highest honour that the Council can bestow, is a clear demonstration of the deep affection Sandwell has for the Trust and NHS and to do so in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the NHS is a fitting way to show the resident's heart-felt appreciation.
- 4.6 The Council has previously granted the Freedom on the Borough to:-
- Baroness Boothroyd of Sandwell;
  - Lord Archer of Sandwell;



- Joseph Adams OBE;
- Christopher Graham Collins (Frank Skinner);
- Cyrille Regis MBE;
- Julie Mary Walters CBE;
- Wilfred Lunn MBE;
- Patrick John Sullivan;
- Dr Hiren Roy;
- Francis Arthur Betteridge MBE;
- Lord King of West Bromwich;
- Lord Snape of Wednesbury;
- Anthony “Bomber” Brown;
- Wendy Mary Lawrence (Josie);
- David Heeley (blind Dave).

## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	Local Authorities are empowered to incur reasonable expenditure on cost of the ceremony and associated scrolls and badges, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The authority to confer the title of Freedom of the Borough and the power to incur expenditure is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as now amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Social Value</b>	Nominations for Freedom of the Borough are an endorsement of commitment to the residents of Sandwell.
<b>Climate Change</b>	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	There are no corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report.



## 6 Appendices

### Nomination Form

