

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	SPECIAL COUNCIL	18 MARCH 2024	2

### FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH – SIR BILL BEAUMONT GBE DL

#### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Ellie Gaunt.

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The council considered a notice of motion at its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 which requested that the Freedom of the Borough status be granted to Sir Bill Beaumont GBE DL. Members resolved to support the notice of motion.

#### RECOVERABILITY

This decision is not recoverable because it relates to a recommendation to the council.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That in pursuance of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1992, Sir Bill Beaumont, be admitted as an honorary freeman of the Borough of Fylde.
2. That the common seal of the council be affixed to a certificate to be presented to Sir Beaumont conferring upon him this honour.

#### Report

1. At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the council considered the following Notice of Motion, submitted by Councillor Karen Buckley.

“I ask the Council to recognise the contribution that Sir Bill Beaumont GBE DL has made to services to rugby on an international stage following an illustrious career. As many members will know, Sir Bill played rugby for Fylde, for Lancashire and he became England captain in 1978.

He led England in 21 of his 34 caps with a particular highlight of his career in 1980 when he led them to their first Grand Slam since 1957.

After retiring from rugby he became a well-loved personality in the TV schedules as one of the team captains in the BBC’s “A Question of Sport”.

Sir Bill Beaumont has not only subsequently driven transformational governance reform in support of world rugby, but he has also driven improvements for player welfare and wellbeing.

Sir Bill has also made a great contribution to the local community, and he is involved in many charities both local, national and international. Sir Bill also supports the Lord-Lieutenant in her duties as His Majesty’s representative in Lancashire where he acts as a Deputy Lieutenant at various events throughout the County.

This exceptional service to rugby was recognised with a Knighthood in 2018, followed by his recent award for the Knight Grand Cross in this New Year’s Honours list. I would like to propose that Fylde Council honours this fine Lancastrian, and Fylde citizen, by conferring on him the Honour of Freedom of the Borough. I ask members to join me in supporting this motion.”

2. Under section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the council can admit as honorary freemen of the borough persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to the Borough. As set out above, Sir Bill qualifies under both through his outstanding service to rugby and his service to the Borough of Fylde. The resolution to confer the honour must be passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council convened specially for the purpose.
3. Following the making of this resolution, an illuminated record will be prepared to mark this honour and it is intended that this be presented to Sir Bill Beaumont at a date to be agreed by the Mayor of Fylde.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Any costs would be met from within existing budget provision.
Legal	The transaction of special business, such as granting Freedom of the Borough, can only be undertaken at a meeting specially convened for the purpose in hand. However this meeting can precede or follow another meeting of the council
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
Council 12 February 2024 It was unanimously RESOLVED to make arrangements to confer the honour of freedom of the borough on Sir Bill Beaumont GBE DL.

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Notice of Motion – Freedom of the Borough	12/2/2024	<a href="#">Council Website</a>

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tracy Manning	<a href="mailto:tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk">tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk</a> Tel 01253 658521	7/3/2024