

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	16 December 2016
Title of report:	Honorary freeman of the county
Report by:	Chairman of the council

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To admit Sascha Kindred as an honorary freeman of the County.

Recommendation(s)

THAT: in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 Sascha Kindred be admitted as an honorary freeman of the County of Herefordshire, in recognition of his eminent services to the county.

Alternative options

- 1 Not to admit Sacha Kindred as an honorary freeman of the County.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 In recognition of the outstanding contribution that Sascha Kindred has made to swimming in general and to the Paralympic Games in particular, and in recognising the major successes, medals and world records that he has achieved, especially in the 2016 Paralympic Games by winning a gold medal and breaking the world record for the men's 200 metre swimming medley. This council wishes to afford him the greatest honour it has in its power to bestow on any individual resident, namely admit Sascha Kindred to be honorary freeman of the county.

- 3 His achievements in Paralympic, world, European and other championships over the past two decades have attracted national and international acclaim, bringing honour and credit on him, his family and connection to the county of Herefordshire where he lives and has rendered eminent service.

Key considerations

- 4 At Council on September 30, 2016, the chairman of the council proposed that Sascha Kindred, OBE be conferred as an honorary freeman of the county of Herefordshire District noting the following key considerations:
- World class sporting achievements: In September 2016, in the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Sascha Kindred of Herefordshire had won a gold medal for the 200m men's individual medley in swimming and broke the world record in doing so.
 - Sustained sporting endeavour: Since competing in his first Paralympic Games in 1996 in Sascha Kindred has accumulated a total of 62 major championship medals, including 7 golds at Paralympic Games, 11 golds at World Championships, and 14 golds at European Championships.
 - Recognition from the British constitutional monarchy: In the Queen's new year Honours list of 2009, he had been awarded the Order of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his sporting achievements.
 - A sporting ambassador in the county: In the 2016 Paralympic Games, Sascha was the only Herefordshire resident Paralympian winner. Sascha had carried out his main training at Leominster swimming pool whilst being a member of Hereford swimming club, making it a cross-county issue.
 - Rendering eminent service: to make anyone an honorary freeman or free woman of the county, Council had to be satisfied that he or she was a person of distinction and they had rendered eminent service to the area.
 - This motion was passed and now a special meeting is convened to bestow this honour. A vote will be required by not less than two-thirds of the members voting to admit Sascha Kindred
 - An honorary freeman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide.

Community impact

- 5 The council should be proud of its contribution to supporting Sascha's achievements. Since coming to Herefordshire, Sascha has carried out his main training at Leominster swimming pool whilst being a member of Hereford swimming club.

Equality duty

- 6 This decision demonstrates how the council recognises the contribution that Sascha has made to sport and in particular to disability sport and how through his example he has promoted opportunities and fostered good relations within the community of Herefordshire.

Financial implications

- 7 There are negligible costs of conferring the honour and of providing a scroll. These costs will be met from existing revenue budgets.

Legal implications

- 8 The ability to confer this honour is provided under Local Government Act 1972 (“the Act”) section 249 (5) of which enables the council to admit;
- (a) persons of distinction and
 - (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority.
- 9 The power is exercisable by resolution of the relevant authority. The resolution by council following the debate on the motion on 30 September 2016 does not meet the requirements of the Act. The resolution must be passed at a meeting of the relevant authority which is specially convened for the purpose and where notice of the object of the meeting has been given; and by not less than two-thirds of the members who vote on it.

Risk management

- 10 There are no foreseen risks in taking this decision. Sascha Kindred is a hugely popular local figure and an internationally recognised sportsman. There has been very positive and widespread interest by the written press, television and other media seeking to cover this award to Sascha. This award follows similar awards made by other local authorities celebrating the success and achievements of their own local Olympic and Paralympic sportsmen and women.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None identified