

SUBJECT:	FREEDOM OF THE CITY
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER:	CAROLYN WHEATER, CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation to grant Rob Bradley the Freedom of the City, pursuant to section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to agree a special meeting on Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at 6.00 pm to award the honour.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Freedom of the City is granted by the Council to those individuals or groups of individuals who are persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the local area.

The nomination to award Rob Bradley the Freedom of the City is in recognition of Rob's lifelong support of Lincoln City Football Club, having worked tirelessly to help keep the club operating through turbulent times.

Rob Bradley initially became involved with the Lincoln City Football Club in the late 1990s, taking a leading role in establishing a Supporters' Trust at Lincoln City, becoming the inaugural Chair of the Lincoln City Membership Scheme and later, the Lincoln City Supports Trust.

Over the years, Rob has been elected to the Board of Directors as a Trust representative, becoming the Acting Chairman when the incumbent Chairman put the Club up for sale.

Following the Club coming under the ownership of the community, Rob became the Chairman from 2000 to 2005. During his tenure as Chairman, he is known for saving the Club from administration. Clearing debts and making profits through his hard work, personal financial commitment, new initiatives and dedication. He has most recently been re-appointed as the Chair of the Red Imps Community Trust.

Rob also held the position of Chair of Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd (commonly known as Lincolnshire Cricket Board) showcasing local activity at regional and national stage. He lobbied passionately to ensure the county received recognition and the support required to enable delivery at a local level.

It is within the context of these achievements that the nomination is made.

3. Organisational Impacts

3.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

3.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The Honour of Freedom of the City is granted under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to “persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City”.

The Act provides that a special meeting of the Council must be convened with the specific object of passing the resolution to confer the title of Honorary Freedom and this resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at that meeting.

3.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

This has been considered for this report and no implications arise in respect of equality, diversity and human rights and therefore an impact assessment is not needed.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That in accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 an extraordinary meeting of the Council be arranged for Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at 6.00 pm to award the Freedom of the City to Rob Bradley.