

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL****PUBLIC REPORT**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>ACTING CITY SOLICITOR</b>
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	<b>13 DECEMBER 2016</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY</b>
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>

**1. Purpose of report:**

To consider a proposal that the Honorary Freedom of the City be conferred on the 21 Birmingham Pub Bombing victims.

**2. Decision(s) recommended:**

- 2.1 To consider the proposal to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City on the 21 Birmingham Pub Bombing victims and if agreed;
- 2.2 An extraordinary meeting of the City Council be held on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 1355 hours for the purpose of considering the proposal to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City on the 21 Birmingham Pub Bombing victims.

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**Signature:**

Chief Officer(s): .....

Dated: .....

**List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:**

None

### **3. Background**

The City Council has power, under S.249 of the Local Government Act 1972, to confer the Freedom of the City and Honorary Freeman/Freewomen upon persons of distinction and persons who have rendered eminent services to the City. The Council in the past has conferred the Freedom of the City upon various sections of the Armed Forces with The Rifles in 2012 being the most recent. The conferring of Honorary Freeman/Freewomen upon persons of distinction and persons who have rendered eminent services to the City. The last occasion on which the Council exercised this power was in 2011 when former Councillor Peter Hollingworth was honoured.

A resolution to confer this honour must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the Council voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose. It is therefore necessary for the matter to be considered at an extraordinary meeting of the City Council.

It has been proposed that the Honorary Freedom of the City be conferred on the 21 Birmingham Pub Bombing victims who were killed when two bombs exploded in two City Centre public Houses on 21 November 1974. By conferring the honour, the place of the 21 Birmingham Pub Bombing victims in the history of the City of Birmingham would be recognised.

### **4 Extraordinary Council Meeting**

Should the request be acceptable then It is suggested that the Lord Mayor be invited to call an extraordinary meeting of the City Council, to consider this proposal, for 1355 hours on Tuesday, 10 January 2017 immediately prior to the ordinary Council meeting on that day.

### **5 Presentation Arrangements**

The practice followed on previous occasions has been to present to the recipient of the honour with an illuminated scroll contained within a specially designed silver casket. The Birmingham School of Jewellery and Silversmithing has customarily been invited to suggest designs for the casket.

The presentation ceremony has then normally taken place at a second extraordinary City Council meeting held in the Council Chamber.

In accordance with resolution 2341 passed by this Committee on 17 February 2015 normal practice would be to have the formal presentation for Freeman/Freedom of the City at the conclusion of a meeting of Full Council, followed by a celebratory dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor in the Lord Mayor's Suite. The estimated cost of this would be in the region of £1,500 which would have to be found through a Policy Contingency. The cost of granting the Freedom to former Councillor Peter Hollingworth in 2011 was £10,000 with 85 guests at celebratory dinner.

However with the number of families involved for the Birmingham Pub Bombing victims a different approach may be appropriate. When Liverpool granted Freedom of the City

to the 96 Hillsborough victims a certificate was produced in house for each family and they also received a medal. Each family were given 4 places at the celebratory dinner. It is understood that cost of Liverpool's event was £50,000.