

Report to Special Meeting of Council

Honorary Freeman

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Reason for Decision

To consider appointing Matthew Walls Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Oldham in recognition of eminent service to the Council or Borough.

Executive Summary

A Nomination has been received and considered by the Council's Leader and Leaders of the two main opposition groups, for Honorary Freeman.

Full Council may, at special Council meeting by formal resolution, bestow the honours of Honorary Freeman and the resolution should be passed by no less than two-thirds of the Members at a special meeting of the Council. A formal presentation will take place at a special ceremony at a later date.

Recommendations

1. That Council admit Matthew Walls to be Honorary Freeman of Oldham as in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the Borough of Oldham.

Honorary Freeman

1 Background

- 1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a Borough Council to appoint Honorary Freeman on those persons who have in the opinion of the Council, given eminent services to the council or the Borough.

Honorary Freeman

- 2.1 Full Council is able to admit Freeman of the Borough. This honour can be given to persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the council have rendered eminent services to the Borough.
- 2.2 A nomination has been received for Matthew Walls. Matthew Walls at his first Olympics won gold in the men's omnium event in Toyko 2021 and silver in the madison. His victory in the Omnium earned Team GB's first track cycling gold medal at the Tokyo Games, as Matthew added an Olympic medal to his world championship bronze and European title in the event.
Twenty-three-year-old Matthew attended St Josephs Primary School in Shaw and Crompton House Secondary School. He started cycling after performing particularly well in the cycling leg of a school triathlon, inspiring him to join a local cycling team. He quickly progressed up the ranks and won the madison and team pursuit events with Team GB at the European Junior Track Championships in 2016. A national champion in omnium a year later and picking up senior placings, including a UCI World Cup gold in London in 2018, Matt claimed omnium bronze at the Track Cycling World Championships last year.
- 2.3 The Local Government Act 1972 provides that the appointment of Freeman must be appointed at a special meeting of the Council convened for that purposes. The resolution must be passed by a two thirds majority of the members in attendance at the meeting.

3 Options

- 3.1 Option 1 – To agree the nominations by resolution of two thirds of the Council.
Option 2 – Not to agree the nominations.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 The Council Leader and Leader's of the two main opposition groups.

5 Legal Services Comments

- 5.1 Contained within the report.
