

Report to Council

24 October 2023

Subject:	Nomination for the status of Freedom of the Borough
Director:	Director - Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contact Officer:	Suky Suthi-Nagra – Democratic Services Manager Suky_SuthiNagra@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations


- 1.1 That the status of Freedom of the Borough be conferred upon Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust.
- 1.2 That the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Mayor and Leader of the Council, be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements to implement the decision set out in (1) above.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, at its meeting held on 22 September 2023, considered and supported proposals to confer the status of Freedom of the Borough to Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Nominations for Freedom of the Borough are an endorsement of the eminent service and commitment to the residents of Sandwell.
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, consider the admittance of persons to be the status of Freedom of the Borough. The persons should be of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Borough.
- 4.2 The National Health Service celebrated its 75th birthday on 5th July. As such, Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust was nominated for Freedom of the Borough (Sandwell) for the selfless public services it has given and commitment shown to Sandwell residents over the years
- 4.3 The NHS overall and in turn the Trust, is a kind, caring, compassionate and great institution that every resident of Sandwell has reason to be proud of.
- 4.4 Bestowing this honour on the Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust acknowledges the hard work, devotion and impact the NHS and the Trust, particularly its staff, has had on Sandwell residents.
- 4.5 This honour, which is the highest honour that the Council can bestow, is a clear demonstration of the deep affection Sandwell has for the Trust and NHS and to do so in the 75th anniversary year of the NHS is a fitting way to show the resident's heart-felt appreciation.



5 Implications

Resources:	Local Authorities are empowered to incur reasonable expenditure on cost of the ceremony and associated scrolls and badges, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.
Legal and Governance:	The authority to confer the title of Freedom of the Borough and the power to incur expenditure is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as now amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
Risk:	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.
Equality:	There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.
Social Value:	Nominations for Freedom of the Borough are an endorsement of commitment to the residents of Sandwell.
Climate Change:	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.
Corporate Parenting:	There are no corporate parenting implications arising from this report.

6 Appendices

Not applicable

7. Background Papers

Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 22 September 2023 (Minute No. 28/23 refers).

