


London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham FULL COUNCIL 27 FEBRUARY 2019		 hammersmith & fulham
FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH AND HONORARY ALDERMAN – MR KENNETH MICHAEL CARTWRIGHT JP, FRICS		
Report of the Leader of the Council - Councillor Stephen Cowan		
Open Report		
Classification: For Decision Key Decision: No		
Wards Affected: All		
Accountable Director: Hitesh Jolapara – Strategic Director, Finance and Governance		
Report Author: Kayode Adewumi, Head of Governance and Scrutiny		Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 2499 E-mail: kayode.adewumi@lbhf.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In recognition of Mr Kenneth Michael Cartwright’s achievements and contributions to the wellbeing of the residents of our borough (and across London), the Council is requested to confer on him the “Freedom of the Borough” and the honorary title “Honorary Alderman of the Borough”.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council confer the “Freedom of the Borough” and title “Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham” on Mr Kenneth Michael Cartwright JP, FRICS in recognition of selflessly serving the residents of this Council for 26 years and acting as a community champion for the area.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) allows the Council to confer the titles “honorary aldermen” or “honorary alderwomen”, on “persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but who are not then members of the Council.”

- 3.2. The Act also enables the Council to admit to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority to (a) persons of distinction, and (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.
- 3.3 The Council considers that Mr Cartwright is worthy of both honours.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The conferring of the Freedom of the Borough is the highest civic distinction that can be bestowed upon individuals, considered to be persons of distinction, in recognition of outstanding service to the Council's area.
- 4.2 The Council may confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary alderwomen on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but who are not currently serving on the council.
- 4.2 The Leader of the Council wrote to the Mayor with the support of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Patricia Quigley, Councillor PJ Murphy, Councillor Colin Aherne, Andy Slaughter MP, Kevin McGrath OBE DL (Deputy Lieutenant), Rosemary Pettit (former Mayoress), and Mary Smith (local resident) supporting the request that the Freedom of the Borough be granted to Mr Kenneth Michael Cartwright. Details of their support is attached as Appendix 1.

5. REASONS FOR THE AWARD

- 5.1 Mr Kenneth Michael Cartwright has been a dedicated public servant throughout his life, being an advocate for more open government and public involvement in decision-making, while supporting and delivering justice through his peerless service as a local magistrate.
- 5.2 He was elected as a Hammersmith Broadway ward Councillor in 1992 – a position he held for 26 years (1992 to 2018). Prior to this, he was an Ipswich Borough Councillor for 12 years, and a Suffolk County Councillor for 5 years.
- 5.3 He was the Cabinet Member for the Environment in the former Labour administration for many years and became the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in 2006. He served on the planning and licensing committees for many years. His diligent attention to detail was invaluable to the planning committee, in considering the Earls Court and West Kensington redevelopment plans – the largest regeneration project in Europe. He has been a powerful advocate for residents in relation to the planning system and has fought hard to give them as much involvement as possible in the process. He has also helped give local people an increased role in decision-making, making it possible for local people and residents groups to speak at council meetings.
- 5.4 In 2014, he became the Deputy Leader until 2017. He ended his local government political career as the Mayor of the Borough during the 2017/18 municipal year. During his time on the Council, he served our local residents

and businesses with diligence and hard-work, carrying out regular surgeries, dealing with thousands of people's casework. He dedicated his time to serving all in our community from different walks of life.

- 5.5 He has been an enthusiastic and supportive governor of three schools in the borough since 1992: Flora Gardens Primary School, Sacred Heart High School, Larmenier and Sacred Heart Primary School. He has also provided dedicated public service as one of the Council's representative to the Mortlake Crematorium Board from 2004 to 2018, having chaired the Board for 9 years. He also served on the Western Riverside Waste Authority.
- 5.6 In 2016, he stepped down as Bench Chairman at Hammersmith Magistrates Court, after 13 years as a magistrate. He was also Deputy Chairman of Central London Magistrates, covering the three merged benches of West London, City of Westminster, and City of London. He was admired by many in local legal circles as a fair and wise Chairman and will be much missed.
- 5.7 During his time on the Bench, he was a strong supporter of moves towards a locally accessible justice system for all; and was judged to have good character, understanding and communication, social awareness, maturity and temperament, sound judgement and commitment and reliability. He gave a great deal of his free time to the Bench, in excess of the day-to-day requirements of sitting in court and was a great supporter of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court at Hammersmith Magistrates Court. He continued to fight for the future of the court, even after stepping down from the Bench.
- 5.9 His courts and council work coincided in his dedicated support for the Impact project, offering advocacy and support for victims and those at risk of domestic violence: the future of which he helped to secure through council funding, when it was under-threat of closure.
- 5.10 In recognition of his achievements, it is recommended that the Mr Kenneth Michael Cartwright JP, FRICS be bestowed the honour – Freeman of the Borough and Honorary Title – Alderman of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) requires a Council by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members at a meeting of the Council, specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, to admit 'persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough' as "honorary aldermen" or "honorary alderwoman".
- 6.2 Section 249(5) of the same Act enables the Council to admit an honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of its area persons of distinction and persons who have in the Council's opinion rendered eminent services to the area.

Implications completed by: Rhian Davies, Assistant Director of Law and Democratic Services 07827 663794

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The cost of a small reception for the friends and family of Mr Cartwright after the Council meeting would be met from the existing Mayor's budget. There are no additional financial implications of conferring the "Freedom of the Borough" and title "Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham" on an individual.
- 7.2 Implications completed by: Kayode Adewumi, Head of Governance and Scrutiny, tel: 020 8753 2499
- 7.3 Implications verified by: Emily Hill, Assistant Director, Corporate Finance, tel: 020 8753 3145

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. It is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on any groups with protected characteristics, under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, from the conferment of these titles.
- 8.2. Implications completed by: Peter Smith, Head of Policy & Strategy, tel: 020 8753 2206

9. BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no business implications.
- 9.2. Implications completed by: Kayode Adewumi, Head of Governance and Scrutiny, tel: 020 8753 2499

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

None.