

REPORT TO:	MAYORALTY AND HONORARY FREEDOM SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE 6 November 2018
SUBJECT:	GRANT OF FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH
LEAD OFFICER:	Jacqueline Harris Baker, Director of Law and Governance
WARDS:	All

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee recommends that the Council agree to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Ms Donna Fraser and Mr Roy Hodgson in recognition of the eminent service they have rendered to Croydon.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report sets out the arrangements for granting Freedom of the Borough to Ms Donna Fraser and Mr Roy Hodgson.

3. DETAIL

Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1 The Council has the power to grant a person the title of Freedom of the Borough. The criteria for the title is that it is awarded to “Persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to Croydon”.
- 3.2 The title is rarely awarded, past recipients have been Lord Weatherill (a former Speaker of the Commons), Colonel McLelland (a former Representative Deputy Lieutenant), Lord Bowness (a former Leader of Croydon Council and a Life Peer), Bishop Wilfred Wood (a former Bishop of Croydon), former Councillors Adrian Dennis & Derek Loughborough, a previous Chief Executive, Mr. David Wechsler, Mr Malcolm Wicks MP (posthumously), Mr Ian Austen (former news reporter at the Croydon Advertiser), Colonel Ian McRobbie (Croydon’s Representative Deputy Lieutenant) and Canon Colin Boswell (former Vicar of Croydon).

Nominee: Ms Donna Fraser

- 3.3 Born in the borough, Fraser’s athletics track record includes six consecutive English Schools 200m titles and a European Junior 400m gold medal. Training with and supported by Croydon Harriers AC, she cites grassroots support as vital to the success that drove her to go professional in 1996.

- 3.4 Donna Fraser's athletics career spans back over a decade. She made a smooth transition into the Senior Athletics arena where she went on to compete for her country on numerous occasions including four times at the Olympics and earned recognition as a serious World Class athlete when she came 4th at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, breaking the 50 second barrier for the first time.
- 3.5 A finalist in 1998 at the European Championships and Commonwealth Games (where she took a bronze medal), she has also played an integral part of Britain's 4 x 400 relay team, taking medals at the World Championships in 2005, European Championships and Commonwealth Games. She also won the BBC London Athlete of the Year Award for 2005.
- 3.6 Retiring from professional athletics in 2009, Donna Fraser is the current Vice President of UK Athletics. She is tasked with overseeing the success of the UK's current athletes and creating the pathway for the potential world champions of tomorrow as well as being Equality, Diversity and Engagement lead. She continues to race for the Croydon Harriers, the athletics club based at the Croydon Sports Arena. She also holds a number of charitable positions including Breast Cancer Now Ambassador, Support Sport through Sport Patron, London Marathon Charitable Trust Trustee and Women's Sports Trust Trustee.

Nominee: Mr Roy Hodgson

- 3.7 Roy Hodgson's connection to Croydon runs throughout his life. Born in the borough and educated at John Ruskin Grammar School, Hodgson went on to become a youth player with Crystal Palace Football Club before completing his training to become a fully qualified coach. Over some 40 plus years, his managerial career has encompassed 20 coaching assignments latterly being appointed as manager of his boyhood club Crystal Palace in September 2017.
- 3.8 Highlights of his career to-date include:
- i) From 1985, led Malmo to five consecutive league titles;
 - ii) Taking Switzerland to the 1994 World Cup where the team made it to the last 16;
 - iii) Being in charge at Inter Milan when the side made it to the Uefa Cup Final in 1997;
 - iv) Guiding Fulham to a top-flight Premier League finish in 2009 and Europa League qualification; and
 - v) Steering West Brom clear of the relegation zone to finish eleventh in the table in February 2011, its highest position for three decades.
- 3.9 At Crystal Palace, Hodgson was tasked with managing a side that had lost its first four league games of the season without scoring a single goal. Despite losing his first three games in charge, a turnaround in form meant he led Crystal Palace to safety and an eleventh place finish in the league. No team has previously survived relegation from the top

flight after losing its first seven games (this was a new Premier League record).

- 3.10 Earlier this year, Hodgson became an Honorary Patron of campaign *Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC)* having been a long standing supporter of the campaign's anti-racism education work and as England manager was proactive in getting players to support the campaign.

Process

- 3.11 A special Meeting of Council has been convened for 6.30pm on Monday 3 December 2018 for the purposes of considering recommendations from this Sub-Committee.

- 3.12 Should the recommendations in this report be agreed by the Sub-Committee, the recommendation to be moved at that Special Meeting of the Council, proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by the Opposition Leader would be:

"That this Council does hereby confer upon Mr Roy Hodgson and Ms Donna Fraser, Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Croydon in recognition of their eminent service and unique contribution to Croydon and its people, and does hereby admit them to be Honorary Freemen of the said Borough and that the Common Seal be affixed to a copy of this Resolution."

- 3.13 A small reception will be held by the Mayor, prior to the award of the honour, so that photographs can be taken and personal guests received outside of the formal business of the Council Meeting.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 None for the purpose of this report. However, the nominations for recipients are made via the cross-party membership of this Sub-Committee.

5 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no such considerations as the limited resource required for this function can be met from within existing budgets.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The awarding of such titles is within the powers of the Council and is governed by section 249 (4), of the Local Government Act 1972 with regard to remuneration and expenditure.
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Background Documents: None