



**COUNCIL (SPECIAL MEETING):
13 October 2021**

Report of: Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran

**Contact for further information: Mrs J Denning (Extn. 5384)
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SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH – MR JOE NELSON

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider granting the Freedom of the Borough of West Lancashire to Mr Joe Nelson, Chairman of Skelmersdale Football league.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That, pursuant to its powers under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council grant the honour of the Freedom of the Borough upon Mr Joe Nelson, Chairman of Skelmersdale Football League, in recognition of the eminent services he has rendered to the community and the Borough of West Lancashire.
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3.0 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

- 3.1 Under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the Council may admit "persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Authority, rendered eminent services" to the borough as Honorary Freeman. The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour that the Council can bestow on any citizen or body.
- 3.2 The proposed Freeman, Mr Joe Nelson, will be in attendance at the meeting to accept the scroll marking the Freedom, following approval of the recommendation at 2.1 above, which will be signed by the Chief Operating Officer, the Mayor and the Leader of the Council.

4.0 MR JOE NELSON

4.1 Joe Nelson has been Chairman of the Skelmersdale Junior Football League for over 30 years. Skelmersdale Junior Football League has been running for children in our community since 1972, with matches played on Sunday's in Skelmersdale. The league is run by volunteers and is affiliated to the Liverpool County Football Association.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There will be some financial/resource implications arising from this event in respect of officer and Member time and in the provision of the Freedom Scroll, however these will be met using existing resources.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 A resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a specially convened meeting is required to admit the Honorary Freeman.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendix Procedure.