



**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL:
28 June 2017**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

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SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH – MR CARL EATON

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 Carl Eaton, founder of Skem Menaces.

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 Carl Eaton, founder of Skem Menaces, in recognition of the eminent service he has rendered to the community and the Borough of West Lancashire.
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3.0 MR CARL EATON

- 3.1 Carl Eaton is the founder of the Skem Menaces Disability Football Club, which has helped to raise more than £50,000 for various charities and good causes. Carl, who was born with Spina Bifida and is a right leg amputee, was inspired to organise the football club in 2009 due to a lack of sports activities available for people with learning disabilities in Skelmersdale.
- 3.2 The aim of the club, which has more than 50 members, is to provide new experiences and opportunities to its members in order to make them grow, become more confident and have the chance to be able to do things that they wouldn't get the chance to do. Carl has worked tirelessly for the Menaces, who take an active role in supporting and giving back to their local community.
- 3.3 The Menaces have won numerous awards since their formation, winning a silver trophy at the Special Olympics in Bath in 2013, saw individual members chosen to represent Mencap team GB at the European Championships and won the national award for volunteer of the year through the Sunday Telegraph. In 2015

Carl won the BBC North West Unsung Hero Award when the club was featured on North West Tonight. The club has also received the Points of Light Award from the then Prime Minister David Cameron and were awarded the prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to local volunteer groups in the UK.

4.0 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

4.1 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.

4.2 The proposed Freeman, Mr Carl Eaton, 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 Executive, the Mayor and the Leader of the Council. A small reception for Members and invited guests will be held following the meeting.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

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 and refreshments, 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.

Appendices

Procedure.