

**HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**PUBLIC REPORT: Y**

**EXEMPT REPORT: N**

<b>Report Title</b>	Granting the “Freedom of Entry to the District”
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	Not applicable
<b>Report Author</b>	Verina Wenham Director, Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 gives Councils the power to bestow the honour of Honorary Freeman and to grant “Freedom of Entry to the District” to persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	<p>The practice provides a dignified and satisfactory means of enabling the District to show its support to the outstanding achievements of athletes at the 2021 Olympic and Paralympic Games, who have a strong association with the District.</p> <p>An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council must be convened to specifically consider this matter, with two thirds of those present voting in favour of granting Mr Fletcher and Ms Sugar “Freedom of Entry to the District”.</p>
<b>Portfolio holder</b>	Councillor Dann
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>	<p>A healthy, inclusive and empowered community</p> <p>Creative, proactive and efficient</p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	The financial position is set out in paragraph 2.2 below and it is considered that the costs can be met from the Chairman’s budget.
<b>Risk Management Implications</b>	None associated with the granting of the “Freedom of the District”.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	The legal position is as set out above.

<b>Equality Implications</b>	None as far as this report is concerned.
<b>Data Protection Implications</b>	None as far as this report is concerned.
<b>Consultation</b>	Both of the nominees have been contacted and are delighted to be put forward for this award
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Biography of Dylan Fletcher Appendix B – Biography of Laura Sugar
<b>Background Papers</b>	Local Government Act 1972 ( as amended)
<b>Options</b>	Council is being asked to consider the granting of the “Freedom of the District”.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, Dylan Fletcher and Laura Sugar be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the District of Harborough, in recognition of their achievement in the Tokyo 2021 Olympics and Paralympics.</li> <li>2. That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the certificate to be presented to Dylan Fletcher and Laura Sugar on their admission as Honorary Freemen of the District of Harborough.</li> <li>3. That arrangements be made to formally bestow the honours at Annual Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.</li> </ol>

## 1 Key Facts

### 1.1 Councillor King submitted a Notice of Motion to Council on 27th September 2021 which was carried:

“Earlier this summer UK athletes had an outstanding Olympic and Paralympic games in Toyko, with a record number of medals being awarded.

One of those who was successful was former resident of Harborough district, Mr Dylan Fletcher ,who won a Gold medal for sailing, class 49er.

I would like to move that to show its support to the outstanding achievements of UK athletes, such as Mr Fletcher, who has a strong association with the Harborough district, that this Council :

- i) asks its officers to look at the resource implications of granting the freedom of the District to Mr Fletcher and any other relevant medal winners, from the 2021 Olympics and Paralympics, who have a strong connection with the Harborough district, namely:-
  - were born in Harborough district
  - went to school in Harborough
  - lived/worked in Harborough at some time
- ii) resolves to hold an extraordinary meeting of full Council before the next Council meeting on 13th December, to consider the issue”.

## 2 Resource Issues

- 2.1 Section 249(9) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) states that a relevant authority may spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address or casket containing an address to a person whom the authority has conferred the title of honorary freeman or honorary freewoman.
- 2.2 The costs of the presentation of the actual certificates conferring the honour for presentation are minimal, with indicative costs being £50.00 per certificate. The cost of the Certificate can be met from the Chairman’s budget for 2021/22.

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**Appendix A - Biography of Dylan Fletcher**  
**Appendix B - Biography of Laura Sugar**