

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA  
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – 10 JANUARY 2011**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT**

**APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY FREEMEN  
AND HONORARY ALDERMEN/WOMEN**

This report proposes the appointment of two Honorary Freemen and seven Honorary Aldermen/women of the Royal Borough.

**FOR DECISION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 By virtue of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council may confer the titles "honorary freeman" and "honorary aldermen". Resolutions to confer these titles must be carried by a majority of two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object of the meeting. Since these powers were last exercised by this Council, the legislation has been amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 so as also to allow councils to confer the title "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman" where appropriate.

**2. FREEDOM OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH**

- 2.1 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour, which the Borough can bestow. It is a signal honour, recognising a significant contribution to public life. The Freedom can be bestowed, entirely at the discretion of the Council, on an individual the Council deems "a person of distinction" – or – "who has rendered eminent services to that place or area". The award of the Freedom of Kensington and Chelsea has been bestowed on a very small number of people. The former Royal Borough of Kensington appointed seven Honorary Freeman between its creation in 1901 and 1965. The Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea appointed seventeen Honorary Freeman in that same period. Following the merger of the two boroughs in 1965, the current Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has appointed eight Honorary Freemen. A list of Freemen is attached at **Appendix A**.

**3. HONORARY ALDERMEN/WOMEN**

3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, gives local authorities the power to confer the title of honorary aldermen/women 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 Prior to 1972 Aldermen were council members chosen by the elected members themselves rather than by popular vote. The appointment often reflected the individual's seniority and expertise. In the 1972 Local Government Act this position was abolished with effect from 1978 and the Honorary position introduced.

3.3 Since 1972 the Council has appointed six Honorary Alderman:

Robert W. Orme	(27.01.88)
Laurence A. Kenny	(28.06.94)
Sir Adrian FitzGerald B <sup>art.</sup>	(26.06.02)
Bob Pope	(26.06.02)
Ernest P. Tomlin	(07.03.07)
Richard Walker-Arnott, D.L.	(07.03.07)

#### **4. NEW APPOINTMENTS – THE FREEDOM OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH**

4.1 Two individuals have given such eminent and distinguished public service in various capacities over many years that it is felt their outstanding contribution should be recognised by the award of the greatest honour the Council can bestow; the Freedom of the Royal Borough. They are:

- The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Hanham, C.B.E., J.P.
- Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

#### **4.2 The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Hanham, C.B.E., J.P.**

4.2.1 Joan Hanham was first elected to the Council in September 1970 as a Councillor for Holland Ward. She represented that Ward until 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 when she stood down upon her appointment as a Government Minister. During her time on the Council she served on most committees. Her chairmanships included the Health and Housing Committee, the Town Planning Committee and the Social Services Committee. In 1983-84 she served as Mayor. Her work with the Earl's Court Study and the Earl's Court Working Party continued over a long period. It was an outstanding example of partnership working, drawing together representatives from many organisations to deal with the particular and often inter-connected problems in a specific area.

4.2.2 Notably, Joan Hanham served as Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee -and hence as 'Leader of the Council' - for 11 years from 1989 until 2000. Between 1984 and 1989 she was a member of the Mental Health Act Commission and Vice-Chairman of its Southern Region. Between 1986 and 1989 she was Leader of the Conservative

Group on the London Boroughs Grants Scheme. She has also served on the North West Thames Regional Health Authority, on the Policy Committees of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, on the London Borough's Association, and on the Local Government Association. From 1994-2000 she was a non-executive director of Chelsea and Westminster Health Care NHS Trust, was Chairman of St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust from 2000-2007, and member of the Board of Imperial College Healthcare Trust from 2007 – 2009.

- 4.2.3 In 1984 she became a Freeman of the City of London. She was, in the same year, appointed a Justice of the Peace in the City of London and subsequently also became a magistrate in the Family court; she held both positions until 2009. In 1997 she was awarded the CBE.
- 4.2.4 Joan Hanham was made a Life Peer as Baroness Hanham of Kensington, in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea in 1999. In the same year she was a candidate for the re-run Conservative nomination to be Mayor of London.
- 4.2.5 Lady Hanham was a Trustee and, following it becoming independent of the Foreign Office, Vice-President, of the former Commonwealth Institute. In Opposition in the House of Lords she held the positions of Shadow Minister for Local Government, the Home Office and Transport, and was also a Whip. She was President of Volunteering England from June 2009 and chaired the England Volunteering Development Council from its inception in 2004. As a result of her Ministerial appointment she relinquished these positions.
- 4.2.6 Following the General Election, on 14th May 2010 Baroness Hanham was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Communities and Local Government and therefore stood down from the Council.

### **4.3 Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.**

- 4.3.1 Although Sir Michael qualified as a Solicitor in 1961, much of his life has been devoted to voluntary public service.
- 4.3.2 He was commissioned in 1954 into what was then the Combined Operations Regiment R.A. (now 29 Commando Regiment RA), and on completion of his National Service in 1956 joined its Reserve Unit culminating in command of the Naval Gunfire Liaison Unit. He is a member of the Greater London Territorial Army Volunteer Association and from 1987 to 1990 he chaired its Employers' Support Committee. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1968 and now has three bars.
- 4.3.3 For much of his life Sir Michael has taken a keen interest in politics and he only relinquished his active political service in 2005 on his appointment as Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London. He stood for Parliament in both the 1966 and 1970 General Elections. He was elected to the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

in 1968, serving as a Councillor for the Hans Town Ward until 1974 and then as an Alderman until 1978. He was Chief Whip from 1971 to 1974. He joined the Council's Investment Committee in 1973 and continues to serve on that Committee now, thirty seven years later: perhaps the longest period of continuous committee membership in the history of the Royal Borough.

- 4.3.4 Sir Michael's charity work has taken a number of forms, including 23 years on the Order of Malta Homes Trust and 15 years on the Orders of St John Trust. In 1990 he became a Knight of St. John and was appointed a Commander of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in 2001. Between 1998 and 2005 he served as a Commissioner of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and – since 2009 – has been President of the Friends of Royal Hospital Chelsea. He was President of the Boys' Brigade (London District) between 2002 and 2005.
- 4.3.5 Sir Michael has many connections with the City of London. He was the first non-Arab to be appointed a Director of the National Bank of Kuwait (International) plc, (in 1993). He has been a Liveryman of the Drapers' Company since 1970, serving as a Member of the Court of Assistants since 1987. He was Master in 1997–98.
- 4.3.6 Sir Michael was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in 1986 and in the following year he became Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. He served in this capacity with great distinction until 2006 when he was appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant. During that time he worked assiduously to establish and develop close links between the Royal Borough and military units bearing Civic Honours. It was at Sir Michael's suggestion that the Mayor's annual Uniformed Reception was established.
- 4.3.7 He has also played a defining role in establishing links between the Lieutenancy and the Council, forming a template which is now widely copied across London. His time as a Councillor, together with his shrewd political judgement has always ensured that he instinctively steers away from involvement in controversial or party political matters, ensuring the Lieutenancy is represented where appropriate and in a manner that complements the role of Civic Leaders without imposing upon them. This proved immensely valuable in 2002 when Sir Michael co-ordinated arrangements for The Queen's four "London" days, as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. He brought together the Lieutenancy, London's Civic Officers, the business community and voluntary sector to arrange four hugely successful and varied days that reflected a wide variety of aspects of London. Sir Michael also played a part in establishing the Royal Borough's annual Mayor's Awards scheme in 2000.
- 4.3.8 Sir Michael was appointed a C.B.E. in 1982 and received his knighthood in 1991. He now serves as a Member of the Council of the Imperial Society of Knights' Bachelor.

## **5. NEW APPOINTMENTS – HONORARY ALDERMEN/WOMEN**

5.1 There are seven individuals who have given long and distinguished service to the Royal Borough as Councillors. Their valuable contribution and impeccable record of public service is worthy of signal recognition. Details of their service is set out in **Appendix B** and it is proposed that the following seven former Councillors of the Royal Borough be appointed Honorary Aldermen/women:

- Former Councillor John Corbet-Singleton, C.B.E.
- Former Councillor Bryan Levitt, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.C.
- Former Councillor John Cox, M.A., F.C.A.
- Former Councillor Mrs Priscilla Frazer
- Former Councillor Rima Horton
- Former Councillor Mushtaq Lasharie
- Former Councillor Thomas Fairhead

## **6. FINANCIAL, LEGAL, PERSONNEL AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The cost of conferment ceremonies and receptions will be met from within existing budgets.

6.2 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 amended the Local Government Act 1972 so that councils may confer the title "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman" where appropriate. The proposed recipients have been contacted and the wording of the recommendations below reflects the choice of title by each of the ladies.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The Administration Committee is **recommended** to invite the Council to resolve as follows (by a majority of at least two-thirds of those voting):

### **7.1.1 The Freedom of the Royal Borough**

(i) That in sincere appreciation of her eminent, distinguished and untiring public service as a Councillor of the Royal Borough, as Leader of the Council, as Mayor and through her work as a Justice of the Peace and on many public, charitable and voluntary bodies, together with her work as a Life Peer and as a Government Minister in the House of Lords, **the Right Honourable the Baroness Hanham of Kensington, C.B.E., J.P.** be admitted to be an Honorary Freeman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

(ii) That in sincere appreciation of his eminent, distinguished and untiring

public service as a Councillor and Alderman of the Royal Borough, as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Kensington and Chelsea, as Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, through his service to the Crown in the Reserve Forces and his work on many public, charitable and voluntary bodies, **Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.** be admitted to be an Honorary Freeman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

#### 7.1.2 **Honorary Aldermen/women**

- (a) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **John Corbet-Singleton, C.B.E.** to the former Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 42 years and his untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Royal Hospital and Cheyne Wards; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **John Corbet-Singleton, C.B.E.**;
- (b) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Bryan Levitt** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 39 years and his untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Holland Ward; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Bryan Levitt**;
- (c) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **John Cox** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 36 years and his untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Campden and Courtfield Wards; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **John Cox**;
- (d) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Priscilla Frazer** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 20 years and her untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the North Stanley and Stanley Wards; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Priscilla Frazer**;
- (e) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Rima Horton** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 20 years and her untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the St. Charles Ward; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman (*t.b.c.*) of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Rima Horton**;

- (f) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Mushtaq Lasharie** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 18 years and his untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Avondale and Notting Barns Wards; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Mushtaq Lasharie**;
- (g) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Thomas Fairhead** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 16 years and his untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Earl's Court Ward; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Thomas Fairhead**;
- 7.2 That illuminated addresses be presented to the Freemen and Honorary Aldermen/women; and
- 7.3 That the common seal of the Council be affixed to the addresses and to entries in the Roll of Freemen and the Roll of Aldermen/women.

**FOR DECISION**

**TONY REDPATH**  
**Director of Strategy and Service Improvement**

**Contact Officer**  
Jim Babbington, Civic Officer  
020 7361 2430

**Background Papers**  
None

## APPENDIX A

### Honorary Freemen of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Miss Dorothy Mia Macnamara, O.B.E. 22.3.65

For over 40 years Miss Macnamara led the work of the Chelsea Home Improvement Society, seeking to improve conditions for the old and the young in Chelsea.

Robert Gillingham Wharam, M.R.Sani. 22.3.65

Robert Wharam undertook outstanding work for civil defence throughout the Second World War. He served on Chelsea Council for 19 years and was Mayor from 1941 to 1944. He was Deputy Mayor from 1940-41 and again from 1944-46. He was also President of Chelsea Football Club.

John Waring Sainsbury, M.A., LL.M. 19.3.68

John Waring Sainsbury received his honour in recognition of 21 years service, ending his career successively as Town Clerk of the Royal Borough of Kensington and then the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period stretching from 1947 to 1968. In 1962 he was elected President of the Society of Town Clerks.

Lady Petrie 21.7.71

Lady Petrie served on Kensington Council from 1946 to 1965 and in 1954 became the first lady Mayor, an office she held for two years. She went on to serve as an Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea from 1964 to 1971. She was the United Kingdom's delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1959.

Mrs. John Walford 21.7.71

As Lady Petrie was the first lady Mayor of Kensington, so Mrs. John Walford was the last, from 1962 to 1965. Mrs. Walford was a Councillor for the Royal Borough of Kensington between 1937 and 1946 and again from 1952 to 1965. She was elected an Alderman in May 1964. Her son, Christopher Walford, became the Mayor of the Royal Borough in 1979 and was Lord Mayor of London from 1994-95.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher 13.6.79

For many years Margaret Thatcher lived with her husband in Flood Street, Chelsea. In 1979 she became Britain's first and only woman Prime



Minister and the only twentieth century Premier to win three consecutive General Elections. She was subsequently appointed a Lady of the Garter.

Sir Malby S. Crofton, B<sup>art.</sup>

14.7.82

Sir Malby Crofton served on the Council from 1962 to 1982, representing the Queen's Gate Ward. He was Leader of the Council between 1968 and 1977 and Mayor in 1978-79. He also served two terms on the GLC.

Councillor Miss Elizabeth M. Christmas, M.B.E.

18.7.01

Miss Christmas was born in Earl's Court and was first elected to the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington in the year of The Queen's accession, 1952. She served as a Councillor for a total of 50 years.

Between its creation in 1901 and 1965 the former Royal Borough of Kensington created seven Freemen. They were:

H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll  
The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., O.M., C.H.  
H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone  
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Balfour of Burleigh  
Francis (Frank) Carter  
Henry Charles Dickens  
Robert Jenkins, M.P., J.P.

In the same period, the former Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea created seventeen Freemen. They were:

Frederick Welch  
Violet, Lady Melchett  
Reginald Blunt  
Sir Samuel Hoare  
The Hon. William Sydney (5<sup>th</sup> Baron de L'Isle and Dudley)  
The Hon. Major William Philip Sydney, v.c.  
6<sup>th</sup> Baron and 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount de Lisle  
Anthony Smith, G.C.  
Admiral Sir Edward Evans (1<sup>st</sup> Baron Mountevans of Chelsea)  
Lt. Col. Samuel Boyle  
Professor Sir Alexander Fleming  
Prebendary Walter Arrowsmith  
Charles Clapcott  
Commander Sir Allan Noble, R.N., M.P.  
Sir Gerald Thesiger  
The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl Cadogan  
Alderman Arthur Sims  
Captain Cecil Townsend

## **APPENDIX B**

### **To be appointed Honorary Aldermen/Women**

#### **Former Councillor John Corbet-Singleton, C.B.E. (42 years' service)**

John Corbet-Singleton served from 1956 until 1964 as a Member of the former Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea, during which time he chaired the Works and Highways Committee. From 1964 until 1978 he served as a Member of the Royal Borough Council. He was Chairman of the Works Committee between 1969 and 1973 before stepping down in 1978 owing to work commitments. Councillor Corbet-Singleton was re-elected to the Royal Borough in 1990 and served until May 2010. He was Deputy Mayor in 1992-93 and Mayor in 1996-97. In between he served as Chairman of the Highways and Traffic Committee from 1994-96. He served on numerous other committees, including Licensing and Planning and Conservation. He also served as Chairman of the Social Services Committee and the Appeals Panel. He was until May 2010 a Member for the Royal Hospital Ward, but he previously represented Cheyne Ward for many years before the ward boundary review in 2002.

#### **Former Councillor Bryan Levitt, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.C. (39 years' service)**

Bryan Levitt served as a Member of the Council for Holland Ward from May 1971 to May 2010. He served on numerous committees including the Policy and Resources Committee and served as Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee and the Planning and Conservation Committee. Councillor Levitt served as Mayor in 1982-83. He was the first Chairman of the Borough's Education Committee from 1990-92. He also served as Chairman of the Western Riverside Waste Authority, the Libraries and Amenities Committee, Holland Park Consultative Committee, Environmental Health and Leisure Committee, Employment and Industry Committee and the Education Steering Committee. He chaired the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Community Partnerships and Economic Development between 2001 and 2003.

#### **Former Councillor John Cox, M.A., F.C.A. (36 years' service)**

John Cox was elected in May 1974 as a Member for Campden Ward. He then represented Courtfield Ward from 1978 to May 2010. He served for many years on the Town Planning Committee, where he was Chairman, and the Policy and Resources Committee. He was Mayor in 1986-87 and in subsequent years was Chairman of the Housing and Social Services Committee, Chairman of the North Kensington City Challenge Company and Chairman of the Audit and Councillors' Remuneration Committee. He was the first Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, Chairman of the Family and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, Chairman of the Investment Committee and Vice Chairman of both the Major Planning Development Committee and the Planning Applications Committee.

#### **Former Councillor Mrs Priscilla Frazer (20 years' service)**

Priscilla Frazer was elected in May 1990 as a Member for North Stanley Ward. She served on the Highways and Traffic Committee, Environmental Services Committee, Environmental Health and Leisure Committee, which she chaired from 1994-96 and the Corporate Management Committee as its Chairman in 2000-01. She was Deputy Mayor in 1996-97 and Mayor in 1999-2000. Councillor Mrs Frazer served as the first Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from 2001-04. She was Chairman of the Holland Park Consultative Committee from 1994 until 1998 and chaired the Holland Park Advisory Group from 2005. She also chaired the Licensing Committee (under its several names) from 2000 and the Public Transport Advisory Group from 2007.

**Former Councillor Rima Horton**

**(20 years' service)**

Rima Horton was elected in May 1986 as a member for St Charles Ward. She was Labour Group Chief Whip from 1988 until 2006 and served on many committees including the Libraries and General Services Committee between 1986-88, the Planning and Conservation Committee between 1986-2001, the Planning Services Committee and the Major Planning Development Committee since 2001. She was also a member of the Public Realm OSC.

**Former Councillor Mushtaq Lasharie**

**(18 years' service)**

Mushtaq Lasharie was elected at a by-election in September 1992 as a Member for Avondale Ward. From 2002 until 2010 he represented Notting Barns Ward. He served for many years on the Licensing Committee, Borough Community Relations Advisory Group and the Tenants Advisory Group. He was Deputy Mayor in 2003-04 and served as a Member of the Family and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

**Former Councillor Thomas Fairhead**

**(16 years' service)**

Tom Fairhead was first elected in May 1994 and served as a Member for Earl's Court Ward. He was a member of the Housing and Social Services Committee and from 1996 to 2001 he was Chairman of the Housing Committee and the Tenants Consultative Committee. He was the first Cabinet Member for Housing in 2001-02 and - for the six years from 2004 to 2010 - he was Cabinet Member for Finance and Property. He served on a number of other Committees including, in particular, those dealing with the Borough's two major regeneration projects, as a Director of North Kensington City Challenge and on the Committee overseeing the single regeneration funding for Earl's Court.

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