

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Extraordinary Meeting of Council  
**Date:** 14 October 2013  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Director of Legal and Democratic Services

### Report Title

**Local Government Act 1972 Section 249(5) – Honorary Freedom of the Borough**

### Summary

**The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour that the Council can bestow on any citizen or body. Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that the Council may admit ‘persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough’ as Honorary Freemen.**

**In the light of his outstanding achievements and contribution to the Borough the Council is recommended to appoint Sir Alex Ferguson as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Trafford.**

### Recommendation(s)

**That the Council wishing to give public recognition to persons of distinction and in pursuance of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 hereby confers Sir Alex Ferguson the honorary Freedom of the Borough in recognition of his outstanding achievements in sport and his exceptional contribution to the profile of Trafford through his remarkable career as Manager of Manchester United Football Club.**

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Peter Forrester – Democratic Services Manager  
Extension: 1815

Background Papers:

None

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour that the Council can bestow on any citizen or body. Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to admit 'persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough' as Honorary Freemen.
- 1.2 To recognise his outstanding achievements in sport and his exceptional contribution to the profile of Trafford through his remarkable career as Manager of Manchester United Football Club it is proposed to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Sir Alex Ferguson.
- 1.3 Sir Alex Ferguson has contributed significantly to Trafford over a sustained period of time through his strong leadership of the Manchester United team. Football contributes significantly to the borough through the large number of visitors it attracts and jobs it creates. The success of the club has grown in strength over the years, becoming one of the world's most successful and renowned clubs and firmly placing Old Trafford on the sporting world map. It is felt appropriate to honour Sir Alex Ferguson with the highest honour that the Council can bestow in light of this.
- 1.4 As a further mark of the esteem in which it holds the achievements and contribution of Sir Alex Ferguson and to mark the occasion of the granting of this honour, the Council has also agreed to rename a local street after Sir Alex Ferguson. Therefore with effect from today, Waters Reach, a road located within the vicinity of the Old Trafford stadium, will be known by the name of 'Sir Alex Ferguson Way'.
- 1.5 Sir Alex Ferguson has indicated that the Freedom would be graciously received if the Council chose to honour it in this way.

## **Procedure**

- 1.6 To confer the honour of Freedom of the Borough upon Sir Alex Ferguson, a resolution must be passed by two-thirds of the Councillors present at the meeting.