

REPORT TO Executive

Date of Meeting: 14 July 2015

Report of: Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support

Title: FREEDOM OF THE CITY

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1.1 What is the report about?

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal to offer the Freedom of the City to Mr Michael Caines in recognition of his outstanding services to the field of cookery which has led to Exeter's name being known around the world as one which supports cookery.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 That in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, an Extraordinary meeting of the Council be arranged, on the rising of the Ordinary meeting of the Council on 28 July 2015, to consider granting the Freedom of the City to Mr Michael Caines.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives Councils the power to grant "Freedom of the City" to any individual who it feels has given eminent service to the City.
- 3.2 To this end, an Extraordinary meeting of the full Council must be convened to specifically consider this matter, with two thirds of those present, voting in favour.
- 3.3 If the recommendation contained in this report is accepted by The Executive and subsequently adopted by full Council, an Extraordinary meeting of the Council will therefore be organised immediately after the ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for 28 July 2015, when Members will be asked to consider granting the Freedom of the City to Mr Michael Caines.
- 3.4 The following nomination has been received in accordance with the following recently agreed criteria against which nominations would be considered:-
- 1. For those who have achieved national, international or world recognition for excellence in their particular field of expertise.**
 - 2. For those who have promoted Exeter during their career so as to significantly raise the profile of the City on a national, international or world basis.**

"Michael was adopted at birth and from an early age took an interest in cooking. His catering career started at Exeter College, and from there he worked under some of the great French chefs. Eventually he arrived at Gidleigh Park and in 1999 was awarded a second Michelin Star. His business has expanded from there, but his roots are still very

much in Exeter where the Michael Caines Academy was established in 2011. No doubt some aspiring chefs will graduate from here in the future. Michael is also a Patron of "Family for Children Trust" an adoption agency.

3.5 Comparing this nomination against the above agreed criteria, it is considered that it can be recommended for approval.

3.6 In response to this nomination, Mr Caines has stated:-

"It's a great honour to be awarded The Freedom on City Award and such an honour that is steeped in history. This is something that makes me feel proud to be from Exeter and know that the contribution I have made is well received. This inspires me to continue to serve the community and support Exeter in the manner that I have."

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

4.1 Other than a small cost in preparing a suitable ceremonial scroll and hosting a small reception, there are no resource implications.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no additional financial implications contained in this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives Councils the power to grant "Freedom of the City" to any individual who it feels has given eminent service to the City.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 The Council is asked to consider bestowing the honour to Mr Michael Caines in recognition of his achievement in putting Exeter very much on the world food map particularly via his work at both the Royal Clarence Hotel, and with Exeter College.

8.4 It is felt appropriate that Mr Caines is awarded the honour now, in the light of the above reasons, and also to reflect the Council's on-going commitment to supporting and recognising entrepreneurial individuals from within the City

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 This decision will help promote the City as a regional capital and one which supports those who support and promote the City as such.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 There are no risks associated with the proposals.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

11.1 None applicable with this decision

12. Are there any other options?

12.1 The Council could decided not to make the award, although it is felt that this would be against the recently approved criteria.

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:-

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