

Report to Council – Honorary Freedom of the Town

Julie Routley, Town Clerk 26.05.26

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider the conferment of the Honorary Freedom of Yateley upon Dennis Thatcher, in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Background

Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a local council to admit to be Honorary Freemen (or Freewomen) of the place persons of distinction and persons who, in the opinion of the Council, have rendered eminent services to the area. This is one of the highest honours a Town or Parish Council can bestow and is reserved for individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the community or the nation.

3. Proposal

Members are invited to consider awarding the Honorary Freedom of Yateley to Dennis Thatcher. This proposal is made in recognition of their eminent service to the nation, their exceptional contribution to the community, and their distinguished service during the Second World War. The proposal is also made in celebration of their 100th birthday. Subject to approval, it is proposed that the award be formally presented at their 100th birthday celebration, where a framed engrossed certificate will be presented on behalf of the Council to mark this significant occasion.

4. Legal and Procedural Requirements

In accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the resolution must be passed at a meeting of the Council specially convened for that purpose and must be supported by not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting.

5. Financial Implications

The cost associated with this award will be limited to the preparation and framing of an engrossed certificate. Provision can be met from existing budgets.

Recommendation

That, in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Honorary Freedom of Yateley be conferred upon Dennis Thatcher in recognition of their eminent service to the nation and exceptional contribution to the community. That a framed engrossed certificate be presented to the recipient at their 100th birthday celebration, and that the award be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and entered into the official roll of Honorary Freemen of the Town.