

<b>Special Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b>
18 May 2017	Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Honorary Freedom of the City</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>18 May 2017</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Wall</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01273 291006
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk">mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report asks Council to confer the honour and title of (a) Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove on Mr Tony Bloom and (b) Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove on Mr. Chris Hughton in recognition of their outstanding achievement in leading and taking Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club to the Premier League and their services to the club, the Albion in the Community and to the city.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council admits Mr Tony Bloom to be an Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove.
- 2.2 That the Council admits Mr Chris Hughton to be an Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove.

### 3. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Mr. Tony Bloom has been the chairman of Brighton & Hove Albion since 2009, succeeding Mr. Dick Knight and has invested £93 million in the development of the club's new ground, the American Express Community Stadium; as well as a new training ground and facilities in Lancing. He has been a long-term fan of the club and grew up in Brighton.
- 3.2 Mr. Chris Hughton is the Manager of the first team and having been appointed midway through the 2014-15 season, secured the club's safety in the Championship. In the 2015-16 season he led the team to 3<sup>rd</sup> place and narrowly missed promotion before leading the team to promotion to the Premier League in the 2016/17 season and the club's return to top flight football since 1983.
- 3.3 The proposals to honour both Mr. Bloom and Mr. Hughton are in recognition of contributions made by them and all those involved with the club, which has led to its success and to the benefit of the city.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Group Leaders felt that there were no other suitable alternatives to the conferring of the freedom of the city.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 All the Group Leaders have been consulted about the proposed admission of Mr. Tony Bloom and Mr. Chris Hughton to Freeman of the City and were in agreement.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The conferral of the honour of being made a Freeman of the city is for the council to determine.

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications. The costs arising from the award of these titles are expected to be met from within existing resources.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis*

*Date: 02/05/17*

##### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to admit to be honorary freemen of the City persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered imminent services to the City. The award of the title of Honorary Freeman has to be done by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose.

*Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis*

*Date: 25/04/17*

##### Sustainability Implications

- 7.3 There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.

##### Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.4 There are no other significant implications arising from the report.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:** *None*

**Background Documents** *None*