

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 2 September 2003	MEETING NAME STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Report title:		FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		ALL	
From:		Borough Solicitor & Secretary	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Standards Committee consider and make recommendations to Council Assembly on the award of Freedom of the Borough to Jack Jones OBE.

BACKGROUND

2. The terms of reference of the Standards Committee include making recommendations to Council Assembly for the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.
3. The Council has power under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer the title of "Freeman of the Borough" on persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the Borough.
4. Such conferment must be agreed by the Council by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at a meeting specially convened for that purpose with notice of the purpose being set out in the summons for the meeting.
5. The Council has power under Section 249(6) to spend a reasonable sum as thought fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to such Honorary Freeman.
6. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is the highest Award the Council can bestow. Since 1965 Southwark have conferred the award on 27 recipients including the four most recent on 4th September 2002. They were Sister Hoskison, Frau Kruckeberg, Rio Ferdinand and Lord James Callaghan. The previous recipient to this was Sir Montague Levine in April 1997. On each occasion the Council has considered the nomination on its individual merit.
7. Council Assembly agreed on the 30th October 2002 the following criteria for conferment of the Freedom of the Borough.
8. That nominations may be received from Councillors, Officers, MPs, outside organisations and members of the public who are on the Council's Electoral Register.
9. That nominations be limited to one per person/organisation and be submitted to the Standards Committee via the Borough Solicitor's Office – nominations must show by example that the nominee is a "person of distinction who has rendered eminent services to the Borough";
10. That Serving Councillors be ineligible for this award other than in exceptional circumstances;

11. That Organisations be ineligible to receive the Honorary Freedom of the Borough; and
12. That there be no restriction as to how often this award may be conferred.
13. Nominations are initially considered by Standards Committee, which then makes recommendations to Council Assembly. If Council Assembly agree to confer the honour, then a Ceremony for presentation of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough is arranged at a Special Meeting of the Council which is currently held in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall.
14. A framed Certificate and Honorary Freedom Badge on ribbon is presented to Honorands.
15. The office of Honorary Freedom of the Borough does not convey with it any legal rights or responsibilities other than a ceremonial role at Civic functions.

KEY FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

16. A nomination for Jack Jones OBE to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough has been received from Southwark Pensioners Forum in order to recognise his service to the community and in particular to Pensioners. The Forum has provided the following information in support of their nomination.

JACK JONES OBE

17. Jack Jones, the son of a docker, was born in Liverpool in 1913. After leaving school at 14 he worked as an engineering apprentice. He joined the Labour Party and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (AEU) and soon became involved in union activities.
18. After the Wall Street Crash, Jack lost his job but eventually found employment with a firm of signmakers and painters. He later joined his father as a Liverpool docker. He then became a member of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) and was elected as a shop steward and was a delegate on the National Docks Group Committee.
19. After the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Jack became active in the Aid Spain campaign in Liverpool and decided to join the International Brigade. He fought for many months before being seriously wounded at Ebro in July 1938. His name is recorded, with honour, on the plaque outside the Mayor's Office in the Town Hall.
20. When he returned to England he became a full-time official of the TGWU in Coventry. During the Second World War he helped to keep the city's munitions industry working through the Blitz.
21. In 1968 he became the General Secretary of the TGWU retiring in 1977. Whilst he was General Secretary, but especially after his retirement, he has fought for Pensioners' rights.
22. Jack Jones has lived in Southwark since the '60's fighting for not only Pensioners nationally but for pensioners in Southwark. He helped to establish the TGWU Retired Members Association, of which many Southwark Pensioners are members, the

London Joint Council for Senior Citizens, the National Pensioners Convention, from which he retired in 2001, and the Greater London Pensioners' Association.

23. Jack worked, with Southwark Council, to establish the Southwark Pensioners Forum, of which he is still an active member. He made the closing address at the recent conference in June 2003 for which he received a standing ovation.
24. As Jack Jones enters his 91st year he continues to be extremely active both locally and nationally on behalf of pensioners.
25. Southwark Pensioners Forum consider that Jack's efforts both nationally and on behalf of Southwark Pensioners, who form a large section of the community, has brought credit to Southwark and therefore he is a worthy recipient of the Freedom of the Borough.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

26. Occasional Honorary Freedom of the Borough Ceremonies could be managed within existing staff and financial resources.
27. If the Council were to increase the frequency of these awards further staff resources may become necessary.
28. The cost of framed scroll and badge is currently £275 per recipient.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

29. Legal issues are outlined in the body of the report.

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Deborah Holmes, Borough Solicitor & Secretary	
Report Author	Gillian Allwright, Member Services Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	22 nd August 2003	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
<i>List other Officers here</i>		
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	22 nd August 2003	