



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**13 September 2023**

**Report of the Managing Director**

**Honorary Freewoman of the County**

## **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider, in principle, conferring the title of Freewoman of the County on Millie Bright following the England Team's recent success at the World Cup.

## **2 Information and Analysis**

- 2.1 Following the recent extraordinary success of the England Football team at the recent FIFA Women's World Cup, it is proposed that Millie Bright be put forward to become the recipient of the title of Honorary Freewoman of the County of Derbyshire.
- 2.2 Millie grew up in Derbyshire having been born in Chesterfield where she attended Killamarsh Junior School and Eckington School. She began her footballing career at the age of nine playing for her local team, the Killamarsh Dynamos. Millie has played for both Doncaster Rovers Belles and Chelsea.
- 2.3 Millie's senior international career began in 2016 and she has represented her country ever since. Last year Mille was part of the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 winning side when England beat Germany 2-1 in the final at Wembley. This was the England Team's first win at a major tournament.

- 2.4 This past summer, Millie was named as the captain of the England Team that progressed to the final of the FIFA Women's World Cup. This was the first time that an England Team had reached the final of a world cup since 1966. Although England lost to Spain 1-0, Millie's part in such a historic occasion will be remember as an extraordinary success and the Council is delighted to be able to honour her in such a way.
- 2.5 It is proposed that the Council considers Millie's nomination in principle so that, if agreed, the formality of agreeing to confer the title would be made at a specially convened meeting, as is required by law, to take place on a date to be agreed. To confer the honorary title, the Council must pass a resolution at that meeting by not less than two-thirds of the Members present at that meeting.

### **3 Alternative Options Considered**

- 3.1 Not to consider conferring the title of Honorary Freewoman of the County on the proposed recipient

### **4 Implications**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

### **6 Background Papers**

- 6.1 None.

### **7 Appendices**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Implications.

### **8 Recommendations**

That Council:

- (a) supports in principle the proposal to confer the title of Honorary Freewoman of the County of Derbyshire upon Millie Bright; and

(b) agrees to convene a special meeting of the Council on a future date to be confirmed to consider the nomination.

## **9 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 9.1 For the Council to formally recognise Millie Bright's achievements in an appropriate way.
- 9.2 To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, conferring the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman, needs to be approved at a specially convened meeting of the Council.

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**Implications**

**Financial**

1.1 None

**Legal**

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a principal council to confer the title of honorary freeman or honorary freewoman on “persons of distinction” and “persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.” To confer the honorary title, the Council must pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members present at that meeting.
- 2.2 An honorary freeman or freewoman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not have the right—  
(a) to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which they are represented); or  
(b) to receive any allowances or other payments.
- 2.3 Under section 249, the Council may spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom the authority has conferred the title of honorary freewoman.

**Human Resources**

3.1 None

**Information Technology**

4.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

5.1 None

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

6.1 None

**Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

7.1 None