

**HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Special Council Meeting**

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Admission of Honorary Freeman of the Borough</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Ashton, Leader of the Council</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Linden Vernon, Senior Officer (Governance and Member Support)</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Non-Specific</b>

**Appendices Attached - None**

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To ask councillors to consider the admission of Mr Peter Matthews, of Peaknaze Close in Simmondley, as an honorary freeman of the Borough.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That under the power conferred by Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council admits as Honorary Freeman of the Borough, Mr Peter Matthews of Peaknaze Close in Simmondley being a person of distinction who has rendered eminent service to the Borough.
- 2.2 That a reception be held in his honour.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Mayor, Councillor George Wharmby, brought to the Council's attention the contribution made to public life by Mr Peter Matthews of Simmondley and nominated him for this honour.
- 3.2 This nomination has the unanimous support of all the political groups on the Council.

#### 4. Implications

##### 4.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

None

##### 4.2 Workforce

None

##### 4.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

##### 4.4 Financial Considerations

It is anticipated that costs can be met from within existing budgets.

##### 4.5 Legal

As set out in the report.

##### 4.6 Sustainability

None

##### 4.7 Internal and External Consultation

This nomination has the unanimous support of all the political groups on the Council.

##### 4.8 Risk Assessment

None

**Mark Trillo**  
**Executive Director (People) & Monitoring Officer**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**  
N/A

**Location**  
N/A

**Contact details**  
Linden Vernon  
Senior Officer  
(Governance and Member  
Support)  
Tel: 01538 395613

## **5. Background**

- 5.1 Mr Matthews first entered public life when he was elected to Glossop Borough Council in May 1964. He served on a range of committees and also represented the Council on a number of outside bodies. In 1969 he was honoured to be elected as Mayor of the Borough. Following local government reorganisation in 1974 Mr Matthews served on the newly formed High Peak Borough Council for the next three years.
- 5.2 In 1969 Mr Matthews became a Magistrate and served the community in that capacity for over 36 years until his retirement at which point he was the longest serving magistrate in Derbyshire. During his tenure he became the first Chairman of the combined bench when the Buxton High Peak and Glossop benches merged. Mr Matthews remains a Justice of the Peace with a position on the supplemental list.
- 5.3 Following his retirement from the bench Mr Matthews took on a new role with regards to maintaining and promoting standards in Local Government by becoming an Independent Member on the Council's Standards Committee in 2007 and subsequently became Chairman of the Committee in 2008. This position rekindled his interest in local government affairs and he has thoroughly enjoyed the new contacts and experiences which this role has brought.
- 5.4 Following the introduction of the Local Government Act 2011 Mr Mathews became the Borough Council's first Independent Person in 2012 using his previous experience to assist the Monitoring Officer with regards to allegations into alleged breaches of the Authority's code of conduct for members. He also continues to use his wisdom and experience to make an invaluable contribution to the work of the reconstituted Standards Committee.
- 5.5 It is proposed that a celebration event will be hosted by the Council later in the municipal year when a commemorative scroll will be presented.

