

Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 28 July 2016

HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF SWANSEA TO CHRIS COLEMAN

Purpose:	To consider whether to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea
Policy Framework:	None
Reason for Decision:	To bestow the Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea to Chris Coleman
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services. Group Leaders and Deputies have also been consulted.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Council confer Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea on Chris Coleman in recognition of his contribution to sport and the city, specifically his leadership and success with the Wales Football Team.
Report Author:	Jo-anne Cutler
Finance Officer:	Mike Hawes
Legal Officer:	Stephanie Williams
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

Christopher Patrick Coleman was born on 10 June 1970 in Swansea and attended St Joseph's RC Primary School and then on to Bishop Vaughan RC Secondary School.

He made his first appearance for Swansea City Football Club aged 17, in the autumn of 1987, soon after joining them from Manchester City. He made nearly 200 appearances for the club and helped win the Welsh Cup in 1989 and 1991.

After spending four years with Swansea City, he transferred to Crystal Palace making 143 appearances and scoring 16 goals.

In 1995 he was sold to Blackburn Rovers where he made 28 appearances and he was capped for Wales at senior level for the first time. He made 32 appearances for Wales during his playing career.

He joined Fulham in late 1997 and quickly became club captain, leading the London club to promotion under Kevin Keegan in 1998/99 to the then First Division. He remained captain and a regular in the 2000-01 season until he broke his leg in a car crash, just days before an FA Cup tie against Manchester United.

Following his retirement as a player in October 2002, he joined the coaching staff at Fulham. He later became caretaker manager in April 2003 and was named as Fulham's permanent manager in May 2003, becoming the youngest manager in the Premier League.

He has also been manager of Real Sociedad, Coventry City and Greek side Larissa.

In 2012, he took over as Welsh national manager after the death of Gary Speed and led Wales to UEFA Euro 2016 finals, their first major tournament since the 1958 World Cup. Under his leadership Wales reached the semi-finals of the Euros and set an inspiring example of teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship.

The success of the Wales team in the tournament has put Wales and Swansea on the map and generated a huge amount of interest in Wales. Their success is likely to inspire many youngsters to take up football and boost the sport at grassroots level.

Chris Coleman has been an inspirational manager and is a true local hero. His professionalism and leadership has won plaudits from across Europe and he has helped to raise Swansea's and Wales' profile across the world.

2. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Under section 249 of the Local Government Act the Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, admit to be an Honorary Freeman person of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent service to the County.

In the past similar honours have been bestowed by the Council and its predecessors on The Welsh Guards, The Royal Welsh Regiment (Royal Welch Fusiliers) and its antecedent regiments, HM Coastguard, RNLI, former President Jimmy Carter, the late Lord Callaghan, the late John Charles, HMS Scott, The Archbishop of Canterbury, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron and more recently, Mel Nurse.

3. Ceremony Arrangements

It is proposed that the ceremony will be held at a ceremonial meeting of the Council to be held at the Guildhall, Swansea at a date to be confirmed.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

None.

5. Financial Implications

The cost of the proceedings, including a Freedom Scroll, will be met from the Corporate Promotions budget.

6. Legal Implications

The power to grant Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea is contained in Section 249 [5] of the Local Government Act 1972.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None