
Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council

14 July 2015

Names of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities: Councillor Philip Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry to Mr Ratan N. Tata GBE and Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya KB CBE

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Council is asked to confer the title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry upon Mr Ratan N. Tata GBE and Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya KB CBE and for an appropriate ceremonial event to be arranged on a date yet to be determined to mark the occasion.

Recommendations:

1. That, pursuant to the powers conferred on the City Council by Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the City Council admit Mr Ratan N. Tata GBE and Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya KB CBE as Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry in recognition of the investment of Tata Steel into Jaguar Land Rover which has enhanced and protected the status of car manufacturing in the region, the Jaguar Land Rover brand and particularly the employment of its employees and many subsidy suppliers, supported by the Warwick Manufacturing Group.
2. That the Lord Mayor's Office be requested to make suitable arrangements, on a date to be fixed later this year, for the celebration of the admission to the Honorary Freedom of the City to include the presentation to them of an Illuminated Address and, under the Common Seal, a copy of the Resolution set out above.

List of Appendices included:

List of Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Report title: Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry to Mr Ratan N. Tata GBE and Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya KB CBE

1. Context

- 1.1 Under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 the City Council may admit “person of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the city” as Honorary Freeman.
- 1.2 The City Council is recommended to admit Mr Ratan N. Tata GBE and Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya KB CBE as Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry. This is the highest honour that a council of a city can bestow on any individual although this does not confer any rights upon them.

Mr Ratan N Tata GBE

- 1.3 Mr. Ratan N. Tata is Chairman Emeritus of Tata Group, which he joined in 1962 and served as the Chairman at Tata Industries Ltd. from 1981 to December 28, 2012. Mr Tata was responsible for transforming Tata Motors Ltd. into a Group strategy “think-tank” and a promoter of new ventures in high technology businesses.
- 1.4 Jaguar Land Rover is a Company that brings together two much-loved, highly prestigious British vehicle brands. After Tata Motors acquired Jaguar and Land Rover in 2008, it united the two marques into a single company whose success has flourished, with new models and innovative technologies that add to a long-lasting legacy. The acquisition was led by Mr Ratan Tata GBE, Chairman of Tata Motors, Indian’s biggest vehicle maker, and sales and profits have risen year on year since then.
- 1.5 Jaguar Land Rover is now focused on sustainable and profitable growth, expanding both its product range and presence around the world and investing heavily in new products and advanced technologies to serve its growing global customer base. This strengthens economic benefits for the city of Coventry, together with its subsidy supply companies and employment, for the foreseeable future.
- 1.6 Whitley is home to the global headquarters of Jaguar Land Rover since 2011 and employs more than 4,000 people. Key development work continues here, including an advanced powertrain engineering facility, and the site also includes the Jaguar design and advanced design departments. The facility also houses the Board of Directors and most of Jaguar Land Rover’s corporate operations, including finance, human resources, PR, purchasing and sales and marketing teams.
- 1.7 Jaguar Land Rover has recently reaffirmed its long-term commitment to the West Midlands with the confirmation of a £600m investment in the region to support product creation and advanced vehicle manufacturing. This will include doubling the operational footprint of its Advanced Design and Engineering Centre in Whitley, Coventry. This multi-million pound investment will house highly-skilled product development engineers and will support the company’s creation of high technology, ultra- low emission vehicles.

Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya KB CBE

- 1.9 Professor Lord Bhattacharyya is the Founder and Chairman of Warwick Manufacturing Group (WVG) a unique academic group with a current annual programme of over £180 million which includes industrial and in-kind support. From WVG's inception to the present day, Professor Lord Bhattacharyya has been a passionate advocate for academic engineering, with WVG being a beacon of manufacturing R&D and business education for 34 years.
- 1.10 Professor Lord Bhattacharyya has been instrumental in many large scale inward investments in the UK, most recently the Tata acquisition of Corus and Jaguar Land Rover. He has been intensively involved in the British automotive industry and is working with Jaguar Land Rover on the development of new technologies and manufacturing processes. One significant development, that Professor Lord Bhattacharyya has cultivated, is the National Automotive Innovation Centre, which will create and develop new technologies to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and to reduce CO2 emissions. In addition to other work on the latest advances in automotive technology, it will also help to develop a stronger supplier base in the UK.
- 1.11 Earlier this year in March 2015, alongside Mr Ratan Tata (Chairman Emeritus of Tata Group), Mr Cyrus Mistry (Chairman of Tata Group) and Jaguar Land Rover Chief Executive Officer Dr Ralf Speth, Professor Lord Bhattacharyya unveiled the foundation stone for the new National Automotive Innovation Centre (NAIC) at the University of Warwick.
- 1.6 This marked the formal launch of the construction phase for the £150 million project which will create a new, cutting-edge UK automotive technology, innovation and education centre. The 33,000sq^m facility, which is due to open in Spring 2017, will become the hub for Jaguar Land Rover's advanced research and technology.
- 1.7 The development of the NAIC project will develop Jaguar Land Rover's global R&D and engineering capability with the support of WVG. Jaguar Land Rover today employs more than 8,000 engineers and designers in the UK and is investing more than ever before in new technologies, skills and facilities. In the financial year 2015/16 the business will invest up to £3.8bn in product creation.

2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposals

- 2.1 In recognition of their personal contribution to the city of Coventry through their leadership of Jaguar Land Rover and Warwick Manufacturing Group respectively, which carry the name of Coventry locally, nationally and internationally, it is proposed to confer the title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry to Mr Ratan Tata and Professor Lord Bhattacharyya.
- 2.2 It is recommended that an appropriate bespoke gift and an Illuminated Freeman's Oath be presented to both Mr Ratan Tata and Professor Lord Bhattacharyya as a symbolic gesture of the honour bestowed upon them at a ceremonial event to be held in the city.
- 2.3 As part of the event, it is recommended that a ceremonial procession will take place so that citizens of the City are able to witness the privilege that has been granted. The arrangements for the event and ceremonial procession to be made in consultation with the Lord Mayor and Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and to include Councillors, Honorary Aldermen and representatives of the Armed Services.
- 2.4 The date of the ceremony will be determined in full liaison with the above two individuals and it is intended that both presentations will be held at the same time, particularly having regard to the likelihood of other "high-profile" attendees.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The bestowal of the title of Honorary Freemen of the City to the two recipients proposed has cross-party support.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Following approval by the Council, the organisational arrangements for the Honorary Freemanship ceremony will commence. The date will need to be determined in full liaison with the two named individuals to find a mutually convenient date that also fits alongside the Council's programme of events and the other participants in the ceremony.

5. Comments from the Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are financial implications arising from this report, predominantly the costs associated with the customary ceremonial occasion to mark the bestowing of the titles. These include:

- Ceremonial costs – hire of venue etc
- Procession - costs associated with road closure, barriers, stewards
- Civic Reception
- 2 x Bespoke gifts
- 2 x Illuminated Freeman's Oaths
- Printing of Ceremonial Programme

It is anticipated the costs will be in the region of £15,000 which will be a combination of the Lord Mayor's Hospitality Budget and, if required, the Council's central contingency budgets which are anticipated to be underspent at quarter 1.

5.2 Legal implications

The recommendations are in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Other implications

- 6.1 **How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

The City Council is committed to "...celebrate all that's good about our city and its future". To confer the esteemed title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry to Mr Ratan N. Tata GBE and Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya KB CBE is a prestigious honour that demonstrates the value of their contribution to the city and will have a positive impact on the City of Coventry.

- 6.2 **How is risk being managed?**

Not applicable.

- 6.3 **What is the impact on the organisation?**

There is a financial impact which will be met from within the budgets outlined in paragraph 5.1 above.

6.4 **Equalities / EIA**
None

6.5 **Implications for (or impact on) the environment**
None

6.6 **Implications for partner organisations?**
None

Report author(s):**Name and job title:** Jane Barlow, Principal Private Secretary to the Lord Mayoralty**Directorate:** Resources**Tel and email contact:** 024 7683 3047 [jane.barlow @coventry.gov.uk](mailto:jane.barlow@coventry.gov.uk)

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Members: Councillor Ann Lucas OBE	Leader of the Council		02.07.15	03.07.15
Members: Councillor Philip Townshend	Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities		02.07.15	02.07.15
Members: Councillor John Blundell	Leader of the Opposition Group		02.07.15	06.07.15
Members: Councillor Michael Hammon	Lord Mayor		02.07.15	03.07.15
Chris West	Executive Director	Resources	02.07.15	02.07.15
Legal: Christine Goodwin	Senior Lawyer	Resources	02.07.15	03.07.15
Finance: Rachael Sugars	Finance Manager	Resources	02.07.15	02.07.15
Governance: Adrian West	Elections and Members Services Manager	Resources	02.07.15	06.07.15
Governance: Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Team Leader	Resources	02.07.15	06.07.15

This report is published on the council's website:

<http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk>

List of Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry

Name	Date Admitted	In Recognition of ...
Andrew Carnegie	4 th June 1914	Doctor of Laws. Donor of the Earlsdon, Foleshill and Stoke Branch Libraries.
Colonel William Fitzthomas Wyley JP	25 th September 1925	His eminent services which he has rendered to the City of Coventry throughout his long public life.
Alderman Alfred Henry Drinkwater JP	9 th November 1927	His long public services to the City.
Alfred Herbert OBE	15 th June 1933	His generosity, as exemplified particularly in the presentation to the City of Alfred Herbert Recreation Ground and of Lady Herbert's Garden, and also in recognition of his eminent services in connection with the modern industrial development of Coventry.
Baron Nuffield OBE (formerly William Morris)	10 th December 1936	His generous help to the Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital and to other good causes, and of his distinguished place in the modern industrial life of Coventry and the nation.
Hugh Richard Farren OBE, JP	10 th December 1936	His character and of his many years of devoted public service to the City.
Frederick Smith	14 th October 1946	His eminent service which has rendered to the City in the office of Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace, in recognition of his devotion to the public duties during a period of unprecedented municipal development and as a token of public esteem.
Alfred Robert Grindlay CBE, JP	15 th November 1962	A Member of the City Council for nearly 39 years, in recognition of his eminent and devoted services to the City during a period of unprecedented municipal development and as a token of public esteem.

George Edward Hodgkinson OBE	15 th November 1962	A Member of the City Council for nearly 35 years, in recognition of his eminent and devoted services to the City during a period of unprecedented municipal development and as a token of public esteem.
Alderman Sidney Stringer	15 th November 1962	A Member of the City Council for nearly 35 years, in recognition of his eminent and devoted services to the City during a period of unprecedented municipal development and as a token of public esteem.
Edward Langton, Baron Iliffe of Yattendon	1 st May 1969	... and appreciation for his eminent services he has rendered and of his many benefactions of his native City.
Councillor Arthur James Waugh Snr	7 th April 1982	His eminent and devoted services to the City and his significant contribution to public life in Coventry over a period of 35 years.
The Right Honourable Dr Marjorie (Mo) Mowlam MP	26 th November 1999	Her significant contribution to the peace settlement in Ireland.