

REPORT TO:		Council (Special Meeting)	
DATE:		26 March 2026	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Appointment of Honorary Aldermen & Freemen	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	n/a

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of new Aldermen and Freemen of the Borough for 2026 for the following:

Freemen

- Pam Barton
- Saeeda Farooq
- Dave Parkins
- Gwen Mayor
- Mohammed Yaseen
- Marlene Haworth
- Anne Ellwood
- Tracy Simmonds
- Barbara Fielding
- Judith Addison

Aldermen

- Dorothy Westell
- Susan Haworth
- June Harrison

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972: Pam Barton, Saeeda Farooq, Dave Parkins, Gwen Mayor, Mohammed Yaseen, Marlene Haworth, Anne Ellwood, Tracy Simmonds, Barbara Fielding and Judith Addison be conferred with the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough and be presented with the award at the Mayor Making Council on the 20th of June 2026, or should that not prove possible due

to the unavailability of the recipients or their representative, at some stage during the remainder of the Municipal Year 2026/27.

(The above names to be moved, seconded and voted upon en bloc prior to Recommendation 2.2 being considered)

- 2.2 That in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council appoints the following as Aldermen: Dorothy Westell, Susan Haworth, June Harrison with the formal presentation to be made at the Mayor Making Council on 20th of June 2026, or should that not prove possible due to the unavailability of the recipient, at some stage during the remainder of the Municipal Year 2026/27.

(The above names to be moved, seconded and voted upon en bloc following consideration of Recommendation 2.1);

- 2.3 That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

Freemen Appointments

- 3.1 To qualify for appointment as a freeman the proposed recipient must be:

- (a) persons of distinction, or
- (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.

- 3.2 The individuals proposed are notable as follows:

3.2.1 Pam Barton

Pam served as a councillor for the Spring Hill ward for nearly 2 decades and was passionate about serving her residents. Pam was a friend to all and an ambassador for her community, fighting for local services such as the Accrington Victoria Walk-In Centre.

Pam was appointed as the Mayor of Hyndburn in 2008 – 2009 and raised a total of £23,275.00 during her mayoral year which was donated to MacMillan Cancer Support, Derian House and East Lancs Hospice.

3.2.2 Saeeda Farooq

Saeeda established Aawaz in 1998. Located in Central Ward, Saeeda's vision was to support women in her local community to feel valued and recognise their vital role in the lives of their families

Aawaz, meaning Voice in Urdu, now supports Asian women across Lancashire and Nationally.

Aawaz engages with over 300 women every week and has subgroups in Preston, Lancaster and Pendle.

Saeeda's work through Aawaz has resulted in numerous successful projects such as Young Aawaz which aims to empower young women, and Mothering Earth which works with Prospects to emphasise the importance of growing local food.

3.2.4 Dave Parkins

Dave has served as a Councillor for more than 27 years. First elected in 1994 he has served Huncoat for 2 decades and was appointed as the Mayor of Hyndburn in 2001 – 2002. Dave is a dedicated community representative who goes above and beyond for his residents.

3.2.5 Gwen Mayor

Teacher Gwen gave her life to try and protect the children under her care during the Dunblane Massacre. The Gwen Mayor Memorial Trust now continues to recognise her bravery and carries on her work with children by providing financial support for projects in connection with the arts, culture, music or sport. Gwen was a passionate and dedicated educator, who was truly committed to providing the very best for the pupils with whom she worked.

Gwen received the Elizabeth Emblem in 2025, recognising her heroic public service.

3.2.6 Mohammed Yaseen

Mohammed has worked to improve the health and wellbeing of Hyndburn Residents for over 40 years, working with numerous voluntary and community groups.

A founding member and chairperson of the Hyndburn Black and Minority Ethnic Forum (BMEF), Mohammed has helped to build better community relations across the borough.

Mohammed is a Chairperson of Scaitcliffe Community Centre, which has been serving local residents since 2001.

3.2.7 Marlene Haworth

Marlene dedicated nearly 2 decades to serving St Oswald's Ward as Councillor. She was the Leader of the Conservative party from 2020 – 2024 and the first Female Leader of the Council in 2023 – 2024. Marlene was appointed as the Mayor of Hyndburn in 2015 – 2016.

Marlene dedicated herself to her residents and has left a lasting legacy.

3.2.8 Anne Ellwood

Anne was a trustee for the Accrington Stanley Community Trust for 9 years and is now an Ambassador of the Trust. With 30 years working in sports, community development and leadership Anne has played a key role in establishing major initiatives including Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, with the first 5k event held at Witton Country Park.

Anne was the first woman in the North West to qualify as a Level 2 football coach, helping to break down barriers within the game and continues to advocate for women's and girls' football.

3.2.9 Tracy Simmonds

Tracy launched Acorn Community News in 2011, showcasing local businesses, promoting charities and bringing awareness to local organisations.

Tracy was one of the founders of the Hyndburn Heritage Museum, has been the President of Accrington Lions Charity twice and takes an active role in helping local organisations fundraise and secure sponsorships.

3.2.10 Barbara Fielding

Barbara has won World, European and British titles in Archery and has broken countless records over the years.

Barbara is a passionate teacher and mentor to the next generation of archers and has supported many into the world of archery, including British Champions. Dedicating her own time and resources Barbara's passion can be seen through her commitments to the sport.

3.2.11 Judith Addison

Judith has served Hyndburn Council for many years, first as a Local Land Charges Officer for over 28 years and then in her role as Councillor, in which she is in her 16th year of service. Judith served as Mayor in 2013 to 2014 and Mayoress in 2021 and 2022. In addition, Judith has served as a trustee of numerous charities, is a school governor and Licenced Lay Reader in Oswaldtwistle.

Judith has a wealth of knowledge she is always happy to share with those in need and consistently seeks to help others with problems big and small.

Aldermen Appointments

3.3 To qualify for appointment as an aldermen the proposed recipient must have rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member of the Council but must not currently be a member of the Council (section 249(1) Local Government Act 1972).

3.4 Additional guidance as to eligibility is provided in the Civic Protocol, including the following:

- 12 years' service.
- Consideration will be given to members not having 12 years' service but who have, during their years of office, held the title of Mayor, Mayoress, Consort, Leader of the Council or Leader of an Opposition group (providing the latter office was held for three years or more).

3.5 The proposed recipients Dorothy Westell, Susan Haworth and June Harrison all have lengthy and distinguished former service with the Council and/or are former Mayors or Mayoresses of the Borough. As such, they are all considered to meet the eligibility criteria.

4. Voting Requirements

The legislation requires that a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, may confer the honours as set out above.

5. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 None.

6. Consultations

6.1 The proposed recipients have also been consulted and have agreed to accept the title offered.

6.2 Several other names have been put forward for consideration which we have been unable to contact so far, these suggestions may be brought forward to a future meeting.

7. Implications

<p>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</p>	<p>Funding was identified from within the 2025/26 budget for the purchase of 12 commemorative badges and cases at a cost of £419.53 each (£5,034.36 in total) in anticipation of the allocation of the 2026 honours and to supplement those medals already held in stock for future awards.</p> <p>Funding will also be required from within existing Mayoralty budget in respect of the extra costs to be incurred at the Mayor Making event for hospitality for the 13 new dignitaries and their guests. Assuming that the usual protocol is followed of permitting each recipient (or their representative in the case of posthumous awards) up to 8 free guests and based on the estimated cost of £35 per head for the meal, additional costs of up to a maximum of £4,095 are estimated to be incurred in 2026/27. In addition, freemen and aldermen are generally presented with a small gift at the ceremony, for which there will be a nominal cost.</p>
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	The above sums can be met from within the 2026/27 Mayoralty budget, although the stock of commemorative badges may need to be replenished for 2027, subject to funding being available.
Legal and human rights implications	The recommendations comply with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
Assessment of risk	None.
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable.

**8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

8.1 None.

9. Freedom of Information

9.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.