

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council – 25 April 2007

Subject: Proposal to admit Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillor Margaret McGregor as Honorary Freemen of West Dunbartonshire

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report asks Members to agree to admit Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillor Margaret McGregor as Honorary Freemen of West Dunbartonshire.

2. Background

- 2.1** Members will be aware that Provost Macdonald and Councillor McGregor are both retiring from political office at the forthcoming Election. In recognition of the contributions that both have made to the local area, it is seen as appropriate to admit them as Freemen of West Dunbartonshire.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** In terms of the legislation, the Council is required to vote on the proposal for admission as an Honorary Freeman and there must be a two-thirds majority in favour.
- 3.2** If the Council agrees to bestow this honour, then appropriate arrangements for an official admission ceremony would have to be made. There is also a presentation made of a ceremonial scroll (Freeman's Ticket) and a carved casket. Following the ceremony, hospitality will be provided for invited guests and dignitaries.
- 3.3** Given that this is the last meeting of the existing Council, it would be appropriate to remit the organisation of any admission ceremony to the new Council following the Election. Consideration should also be given to whether a joint ceremony or individual ceremonies would be most appropriate.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** If the proposal is agreed there would be a requirement for staff to undertake the arrangements for any ceremonies, this could be undertaken using existing staff resources.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** If the proposal is agreed there would be a cost involved for the ceremony and the associated presentations.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There was no requirement for a risk analysis for this report.

7. Conclusions

7.1 Given that Provost Macdonald and Councillor McGregor are retiring at this Election, and given their long and outstanding commitment to the local area, it would be appropriate to admit them as Honorary Freemen of West Dunbartonshire.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Council is asked to agree:-

- (a) to admit Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillor Margaret McGregor as honorary Freemen of West Dunbartonshire; and
- (b) to remit the arrangements for the official ceremony or ceremonies to the new Provost following the Election.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 19 April 2007

Person to Contact: David McMillan, Chief Executive
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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None