

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by the Chief Executive

Council: 28 January 2009

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**Subject: Proposal to admit Sir Jackie Stewart OBE as an Honorary Freeman of West Dunbartonshire**

### **1. Purpose**

**1.1** This report proposes the admission of Sir Jackie Stewart MBE as an Honorary Freeman of West Dunbartonshire.

### **2. Background**

**2.1** Sir Jackie Stewart was born in Milton in 1939 and attended Milton Primary and later Dumbarton Academy. He started his motoring career as an apprentice mechanic in his parents' Jaguar garage at Dumbuck, going on to be three times Formula 1 World Champion and team principal of his Formula 1 racing team.

**2.2** Although primarily known for winning three F1 titles, Sir Jackie has also won an Olympic gold medal for shooting, and campaigned for awareness of dyslexia, from which he suffers. He has an ongoing commitment to charities and is President of the Springfield Boys' Club and the Scottish Dyslexia Trust, Vice President of the British Dyslexia Association and the Disabled Driving Association and Trustee of the Grand Prix Mechanics' Charitable Trust and the Scottish International Education Trust.

### **3. Main Issues**

**3.1** Section 206 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 provides that a council may resolve to confer the freedom of its area on "persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent service". Such resolutions must be passed by a two-thirds majority.

**3.2** If the Council agrees to bestow this honour, a formal admission ceremony will be held. The ceremony takes place at a special council meeting, convened for that purpose on a date to be arranged in discussion with the honorary Freeman. A presentation is made of a ceremonial scroll (Freeman's ticket). After the ceremony, hospitality will be provided for dignitaries and invited guests.

### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** There are no personnel issues arising from the proposal.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** Hospitality and other related costs for the event are likely to be in the region of £7,000 to £9,000.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** There are no significant risks arising from this proposal.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1** The rank of Freeman exists to honour persons of distinction from the local area. Sir Jackie Stewart's sporting achievements and charitable works make him a worthy candidate for such an honour.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1** The Council is asked to resolve to admit Sir Jackie Stewart OBE as an honorary Freeman of West Dunbartonshire and to remit arrangements for the official ceremony to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Provost.

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 21 January 2009**

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**Background Papers:** Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 – Section 206

**Wards Affected:** All wards