

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Member:</b>	Councillor L Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 September 2021

## BLACKPOOL MEDAL – Brian London (Brian Sidney Harper)

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Council to consider awarding the Blackpool Medal posthumously to Brian London (Brian Sidney Harper) born 19 June 1934; died 23 June 2021 and former British and Commonwealth boxing heavyweight champion.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that Brian London (Brian Sidney Harper) be posthumously awarded the Blackpool Medal in recognition of his eminent service to the Borough.

2.2 To request the Director of Governance and Partnerships to organise a Special Meeting of Council, for the award of this medal.

2.3 To note that the Group Leaders are due to meet to look at the nomination process for awards and honours.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 A formal decision of council is required to enable arrangements to be made to award a Blackpool Medal.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

No other options are put forward.

### 4.0 Council priority:

4.1 The recommendations reflect all priorities of council.

## 5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Blackpool Medal came about on 24 September 2008, when the then Leader of the Council, Councillor Peter Callow announced that following consultation with the other Group Leaders, it was intended to present Shelly Woods, as the first recipient of the 'Blackpool Medal', in recognition of her successes at the 2008 Paralympics, her individual achievements in recent years and the ambassadorial role she undertook for Blackpool, as a 'Sporting Champion'.

5.2 At the Annual Meeting on 21 May 2021, Council agreed the following updated criteria for the award of a Blackpool Medal.

To be given to person(s) living or deceased:

1. Who were born, live or have lived, work or have worked in, or who have or have had strong links with Blackpool; and
2. Who have made a key and recognised contribution to the Borough as a whole, or to its communities beyond which is expected of citizens, or has achieved regional or national significance and in so doing promoted Blackpool.

5.3 Following discussions between the Group Leaders, it is considered appropriate to honour Brian London (Brian Sidney Harper) with a Blackpool Medal for his service to the town and to mark his achievements. Brian was an eminent boxer and was nicknamed the Blackpool Rock and the British Bulldog. He was the British and Commonwealth heavyweight champion from 1958 to 1959 and famously battled Muhammad Ali in 1966 for the world title. The second of two world title fights.

5.4 He lived in Blackpool since his family moved here when he was 16. Born Brian Sidney Harper, he adopted his father's ring surname (his father was also a boxer) when he became a professional fighter in 1955, after completing his national service. He invested wisely in property in Blackpool and after his boxing career for many years owned the 007 nightclub, which became a well-known dance and live music venue. He was a fitness fanatic and kept active well into his retirement.

5.5 It is proposed that a special meeting is convened for the award of the medal. Members will be aware that the Council also agreed to award the medal to former Councillors Peter Callow and Mrs Lily Henderson MBE and a special meeting is being organised for that purpose.

5.6 The Group Leaders have agreed to meet to look at the nomination process for awards and honours.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

None.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 There are no legal considerations within this item.

**7.0 Equalities considerations:**

7.1 There are no equalities considerations.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The costs associated with this item (purchase of medals) will be met from within budget.

**9.0 Risk management considerations:**

9.1 There are no risk management considerations.

**10.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

11.1 Consultation has taken place with the Group Leaders of the Council.

**12.0 Background papers:**

12.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.