

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Member:	Councillor L Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	18 May 2022

BLACKPOOL MEDAL – Elaine Smith MBE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Council to consider awarding the Blackpool Medal to Mrs Elaine Smith MBE.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree in principle that Mrs Elaine Smith MBE be awarded the Blackpool Medal in recognition of her eminent service to the Borough and to request that the Director of Governance and Partnerships to organise a Special Meeting of Council, for the formal approval and award of this medal.

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 Mrs Elaine Smith was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2009 for her services to heritage. Following discussions between the Group Leaders, it is considered appropriate for the Council to honour her with a Blackpool Medal for her service to the town and to mark her achievements as the President of the Blackpool Civic Trust, the Chairman of Friends of Stanley Park and for her active involvement in many other organisations across the town.

5.4 It is proposed that a special meeting is convened for the award of the medal.

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.