

**FREEDOM OF ARGYLL AND BUTE**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1** Tennis player Gordon Reid, from Helensburgh, has achieved significant success in his chosen sport at an international level over the past few years. He is currently ranked the World No. 1 and World No. 2 in doubles for wheelchair tennis. 2016 has seen Gordon add several more world titles to his list of achievements. He won Paralympic gold in the men's singles event at Rio 2016 and Silver in the doubles event.
- 1.2** Local residents in Helensburgh and further across Argyll and Bute are immensely proud of Gordon Reid's achievements and sporting success. With this in mind, the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee unanimously agreed at their Area Committee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to ask Council to mark his achievements by awarding him the Freedom of Argyll and Bute.
- 1.3** Council is invited to consider the request of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee to award the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Gordon Reid.

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**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1** Tennis player Gordon Reid, from Helensburgh, has achieved significant success in his chosen sport at an international level over the past few years. He is currently ranked the World No. 1 and World No. 2 in doubles for wheelchair tennis. 2016 has seen Gordon add several more world titles to his list of achievements. He won Paralympic gold in the men's singles event at Rio 2016 and Silver in the doubles event.
- 2.2** Local residents in Helensburgh and further across Argyll and Bute are immensely proud of Gordon Reid's achievements and sporting success. With this in mind, the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee is asking Council to mark his achievements by awarding him the Freedom of Argyll and Bute.
- 2.3** Members of the area committee met on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and unanimously agreed to ask the council to confer the Freedom of Argyll and Bute upon Gordon Reid in recognition of his outstanding sporting achievements.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1** The council is invited to consider the request to award the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Helensburgh tennis player Gordon Reid in recognition of his outstanding success in wheelchair tennis.

**4. DETAIL**

- 4.1** The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 makes provision for local authorities to award the freedom of the area to people who have given particular service or brought distinction to the district.
- 4.2** Gordon Reid, from Helensburgh, has an impressive list of sporting credentials dating back to his first year playing wheelchair tennis.
- 4.3** His achievements include:
- 2006 – Finalist, BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year
  - 2007 – Britain’s youngest men’s singles national champion
  - 2007 – part of winning UK junior team at World Team Cup
  - 2012 – London Olympics semi-finalist, singles and doubles
  - 2014 – Tennis Scotland International Player of the Year
  - 2015 – Two Grand Slam doubles titles
  - 2015 – First British men’s wheelchair player to gain World No. 1 ranking
  - 2016 – First British men’s wheelchair player to take Grand Slam singles
  - 2016 – Representing Britain in the Rio Paralympic Games where he won Paralympic gold in the men’s singles event and Silver in the doubles event.
- 4.4** Gordon is a former pupil of Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh. He has spoken publicly about the importance of his schooling and local tennis clubs in contributing to his future success. In March this year he performed the official opening of the council’s new Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre which, given his very recent sporting success, attracted very positive national media attention for Helensburgh and for Argyll and Bute as a whole.
- 4.5** When the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee met on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016, members unanimously agreed to recognise Gordon Reid’s outstanding achievements, noting that he has brought enormous pride to local residents and made history in the process. They agreed to ask the council to award him the Freedom of Argyll and Bute as a mark of his success.
- 4.6** Section 206 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 makes provision for councils to award the Freedom of the district by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the voting members at a meeting of the council which specifies the proposal as an item of business.
- 4.7** The council keeps a roll containing the names of people admitted as Freemen of Argyll and Bute in accordance with this section of the Act. The last award of Freedom of Argyll and Bute was made to the former Provost William Petrie in May 2012.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The achievements of tennis player Gordon Reid are significant and have helped to add to a sense of civic pride not only in his home community of Helensburgh but across Argyll and Bute.
- 5.2 Members of the council are asked to support the unanimous agreement of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee that Gordon Reid should be awarded the Freedom of Argyll and Bute in recognition of his national and international success.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy – none
- 6.2 Financial – depending on arrangements for the meeting where Freedom of Argyll and Bute is awarded, with any costs to be considered by the Provost through his Civic Budget.
- 6.3 Legal – admission as a Freeman of Argyll and Bute is provided for under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, section 206.
- 6.4 HR – the Member Services team liaise with the Provost in relation to the organisation of civic events.
- 6.5 Equalities – none
- 6.6 Risk – none
- 6.7 Customer Service – none

**Executive Director of Customer Services – Douglas Hendry  
21st September 2016**

**For further information please contact Tricia O'Neill, Central Governance Manager, telephone 01546 604384 or email [patricia.oneill@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.oneill@argyll-bute.gov.uk)**

### **APPENDIX:**

**Extract of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016**