

## **Nominations sought for the Borough's highest honour**

The Local Government Act 1972 allows local councils to grant the Freedom of the Borough to people or organisations of distinction that have given eminent service to the borough over an extended period of time.

The Freedom of the Borough is awarded relatively rarely and only to exceptional candidates. It is the highest honour a borough can confer so the decision to give the award is only taken after careful consideration.

The last award was made in 2018 to Commander John Ludgate (Retd.), who served as the Deputy Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets for 22 years. His duties included overseeing royal visits in the borough, advising the Mayor, Speaker and councillors on protocol and engagement with the royals and validating awards such as the Queen's Award for Enterprise and Voluntary Service.

The Council is now seeking nominations for Freedom of the Borough to be awarded this year. The nominations will be considered by a cross-party panel chaired by the Speaker, Cllr Mohammed Ahabab Hossain, who said: "I am very happy that there will once again be an opportunity for exceptional people or organisations in Tower Hamlets to be recognised for their achievements. It is a real and rare honour to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough and I look forward to congratulating the next recipients later in the year."

Nominations should be made by completing the nomination form and sending it to [Speaker@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Speaker@towerhamlets.gov.uk) by (insert closing date). Before completing your nomination please read the guidance notes carefully.

If you have any queries, please email the Civic Office on the email address above.