

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**SPECIAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, 22 May 2025

Time: 7.00pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present: Councillors: Jim Brown, (Mayor), Nazmin Chowdhury, (Deputy Mayor), Myla Arceno, Julie Ashley-Wren, Sandra Barr, Philip Bibby, Stephen Booth, Robert Boyle, Leanne Brady, Lloyd Briscoe, Rob Broom, Kamal Choudhury, Forhad Chowdhury, Peter Clark, Coleen De Freitas, Alistair Gordon, Richard Henry, Jackie Hollywell, Mason Humberstone, Andy McGuinness, Sarah Mead, Robin Parker CC, Claire Parris, Ellie Plater, Tom Plater, Ceara Roopchand, Simon Speller, Jeannette Thomas, Carolina Veres, Anne Wells, Peter Wilkins, Nigel Williams and Jade Woods

Start / End Start Time: 7.00pm
Time: End Time: 7.10pm

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Sandra Barr, Akin Elekolusi, Lynda Guy, Loraine Rossati, Tom Wren and Deputy Youth Mayor Frankie Duncan.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**

The meeting had been convened to consider a Motion to confer the title of Freeman of the Borough on Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, OBE.

Councillor Richard Henry in moving the motion paid tribute to Baroness Taylor for her outstanding service to the town and advised that this was the highest award the Council could confer on an individual. He spoke of her 27 years' service including 16 as Leader of the Council before becoming a Baroness and subsequently a Government Minister in the last two years.

Councillor Jeanette Thomas formally seconded the Motion and stated that she could not think of a more deserving recipient of the honour.

Councillor Stephen Booth and Phil Bibby spoke in favour of the motion.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council confers the title of Freeman of the Borough on Baroness Taylor of Stevenage OBE who has rendered

27 years eminent service as a Councillor, including 16 as the Council's Leader, selflessly dedicating herself to both the town and the Council.

Baroness Taylor's contributions at County, regional and national levels were recognised when she was asked to join the House of Lords in 2022, and she now holds the role of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

CHAIR