

## **Freedom of the Borough Nomination Citation – Martin O'Neill**

That this Council recognises and celebrates the outstanding sporting achievements and distinguished career of Martin O'Neill, a native of Kilrea, whose contribution to football has brought immense pride and recognition to his home community and the wider Causeway Coast and Glens Borough.

Council notes Martin O'Neill's exceptional contribution to football over more than five decades, both as a player and manager. His achievements include winning two European Cups with Nottingham Forest, captaining at the 1982 FIFA World Cup, and achieving major managerial success with clubs including Leicester City, Celtic and Aston Villa, as well as managing the Republic of Ireland at international level.

Throughout his career, Martin O'Neill has demonstrated enduring leadership, determination and professionalism, earning respect across the footballing world. His achievements have inspired generations of players and supporters and have ensured that his name is recognised among the most distinguished sporting figures to emerge from our shores, enhancing our sporting reputation on the international sporting stage.

Council further recognises his remarkable longevity, leadership and enduring contribution to the game, including his recent return to management with Celtic and the achievement of securing the Scottish league title at the age of 74. His continued success at the highest levels of football reflects a lifelong commitment to excellence and serves as a source of pride to the people of Kilrea and the wider Borough.

In recognition of Martin O'Neill's outstanding sporting achievements, his distinguished contribution to football and the pride he has brought to Kilrea and the wider Borough, this Council agrees to confer upon Martin O'Neill the Freedom of the Borough of Causeway Coast and Glens.

Council further agrees that officers engage with Martin O'Neill and his family regarding suitable arrangements for the conferral of this honour and consider a permanent civic recognition of his achievements within his native Kilrea.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson

Seconded by Councillor Peacock