

**Agenda Item No:** 8  
**Report To:** Cabinet  
**Date of Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
**Report Title:** Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme  
**Report Author & Job Title:** Keith Fearon, Member Services Liaison Manager  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Clarkson  
**Portfolio Holder for:** Leader of the Council



**Summary:** To advise of the request received from the Leader of the Council that the Borough Council considers establishing an Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme and to propose that the first recipient of the Award will be Liliana Turoiu, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, in recognition of her work in commissioning a statue of Queen Marie of Romania to be located in the new Elwick Place development. The report also seeks approval for the future consideration and determination of Awards to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Civic Honours and Awards Board.

**Key Decision:** No

**Significantly Affected Wards:** Not applicable

**Recommendations:** **The Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:-**

- (i) the establishment of an Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme as outlined within the report be approved.**
- (ii) the first recipient of the Award be Liliana Turoiu, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, to reflect the work undertaken to commission a statue of Queen Marie of Romania to be located in the new Elwick Place development.**
- (iii) the consideration and determination of future recipients of the Award be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Ashford Borough Council Civic Honours and Awards Board.**

**Policy Overview:** Not applicable  
**Financial Implications:** Costs are currently being sought for the commissioning of a dedicated medallion from a specialist supplier and if received

in time will be reported orally at the meeting.

**Legal Implications:** Not applicable

**Exemption Clauses:** **NO**

**Background  
Papers:** Nil

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## **Report Title: Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme**

### **Introduction and Background**

1. The Leader, in conjunction with the Chief Executive, has recently indicated that they wish for the Borough Council to consider establishing an Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme to recognise and honour individuals who have made or are making a significant contribution to the development, wellbeing, strength and/or civic dignity of the Borough of Ashford. The Borough Council currently has a Civic Award Scheme which, during 2018, had awarded several individuals who lived within the Borough to reflect their contributions. The Borough Council has also in the past awarded the Freedom of the Borough to the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, the Intelligence Corps and REME 133 Field Workshop Company and also to Ernie Mexter and the late Ferdi Lethert MBE. The Leader of the Council believes that the proposed Honorary Ambassador Award would bridge the gap between these two Awards and provide greater flexibility to enable the Borough Council to honour those people who live both within and outside of the Borough to reflect their individual contribution to the Borough as a whole.

### **Proposal**

2. It is proposed that an Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Scheme be developed to enable the Borough Council to award those individuals who have made or are making a significant contribution to the development, wellbeing, strength and/or civic dignity of the Borough of Ashford and to also reflect the Council's gratitude for those efforts. The Award will be commissioned in the 66<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the design of the medallion will recognise the centenary year of the end of World War I and in the same year in Ashford, the unveiling of the statue of Queen Marie of Romania. The medallion will be designed in the form of a 7cm circular medallion crafted to embody the civic dignity that the Award will endow. It is proposed that the medallion would also bear the Armorial Bearings of the Ashford Borough Council, granted by Garter King of Arms in 1975, and be inscribed to show the name of the recipient. Under the Armorial Bearings shall be the words "Ashford Ambassador". To each side of the Armorial Bearings there will be poppies to signify the centenary of the end of World War I. The reverse of the medallion will have a raised image of the Memorial Statue of Queen Marie of Romania in the centre and above the image would be inscribed "Queen Marie of Romania" and below the image "1875 – 1938".
3. In terms of the proposed first recipient of the Award, it is proposed that Liliana Turoiu, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, receive the Award in recognition of their work to commission a statue of Queen Marie of Romania

for placement in the new Elwick Place development. The significance of Queen Marie of Romania to Ashford relates to the fact that she was the Granddaughter of Queen Victoria and was born in the Borough at Eastwell Manor, and the Romanian Royal Family and Government wish to reflect this relationship by the placing of the aforementioned statue. The tentative date for the unveiling of the statue is 15 December 2018 which will also tie in with a visit by members of the Romanian Royal Family and Ministers and VIP's from the Romanian Government. The Cabinet is therefore asked to recommend to Council that Liliana Turoiu, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, be the first recipient of the Award.

### **Process for Consideration of Future Awards**

4. It is proposed that the consideration and determination of future recipients of the Award be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Ashford Borough Council Civic Honours and Awards Board, to avoid the need for a dedicated report to be produced for the Cabinet.

### **Next Steps in Process**

5. Subject to the approval by the Council of the recommendations of the Cabinet, the commemorative medallion would be commissioned and awarded Liliana Turoiu, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, at the ceremony when the unveiling of the statue of Queen Marie of Romania takes place.

### **Portfolio Holder's Views**

6. The Portfolio Holder is the Leader of the Council and he is supportive of the proposals outlined within this report.

### **Contact Details**

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