

CONDOLENCE MOTION

SUBJECT Dr Bryan Cowling - Condolences
MOTION OF: Mayor Ned Mannoun
DATE: 18 May 2026
TRIM Ref: 151894.2026

I rise tonight to acknowledge with sadness the passing of Dr Bryan Cowling, a respected educator, historian and passionate advocate for Liverpool's local heritage, who passed away on Thursday, the 14th of May 2026.

Dr Cowling dedicated much of his life to education and the Liverpool community. Many across our city will remember his years as a history teacher at Miller High School, where he inspired students to connect with the stories and identity of our local area. He later became the founding Principal of Thomas Hassall Anglican College, leading the College through its formative years and helping shape an institution that continues to serve our region today.

Beyond education, Dr Cowling was deeply committed to preserving Liverpool's history. He worked closely with the Liverpool Heritage Society and played an important role in campaigns to protect sites such as Rosebank Cottage, the Old Court House and Pioneers' Memorial Park.

Even in retirement, and despite his declining health, Dr Cowling continued to share his passion for Liverpool's history through research, writing and presentations to the community, including his work documenting the history of St Luke's Anglican Church.

On behalf of Council, I extend our sincere condolences to Dr Cowling's family, friends, former colleagues, students and all those whose lives he touched.

May he rest in peace.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Notes with sadness the passing of Dr Bryan Cowling on 14 May 2026 and extends its sincere condolences to his family, friends and the wider community.
2. Recognises Dr Cowling's significant contribution to education, local history and heritage preservation within the Liverpool community over many decades.
3. Places on record its appreciation for Dr Cowling's service as an educator, founding Principal of Thomas Hassall Anglican College, and passionate advocate for Liverpool's local history and heritage.
4. Notes that a Thanksgiving Service for Dr Cowling will be held at St Luke's Anglican Church on 22 May 2026 at 1:00pm.