

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Special Council	Date:	20 May 2013
Subject:	Admission of Honorary Freeman		
Report Of:	Leader of the Council		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks the Council to confer the honour and title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester on Dr Greg Smith and Mr Ian Mean in recognition of their significant contributions to the work of the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Board (GHURC Board) and to the City.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Gregory Edwin Smith be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester in recognition of his significant contribution to the work of the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Board and to the City.
- (2) Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Ian Richard Mean be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester in recognition of his significant contribution to the work of the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Board and to the City.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

Greg Smith

- 3.1 Dr. Greg Smith was born in Birmingham and educated at St Philip's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield College of Further Education and later at Kingston University, Garnett College and Cranfield University.
- 3.2 He has been Principal of Gloucestershire College for the last sixteen years and in 2009 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Gloucestershire for his services to further education and regeneration.

- 3.3 He has also served the City and the County as a Council member of the University; Board member of the Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Board; Trustee and Governor of the Gloucester Academy and member of the Cinderford Regeneration Board.
- 3.4 He was made a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire in 2010.

Ian Mean

- 3.5 Born in London, Ian began in journalism in South London aged 17, and worked as a reporter and on news desks on national papers.
- 3.6 He was Northern News Editor of the Daily Mail, and Editorial Marketing Manager of the Daily Mirror.
- 3.7 He became Editor of the Gloucester Citizen in 2003 before becoming Content Director for the Local World Media Group for Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Dorset.
- 3.8 He has served the City and County as Director of Marketing Gloucester, Chairman of the Gloucestershire NHS Organ Donation Committee and Director of the Gloucestershire Community Foundation and an Honorary Vice President of Gloucestershire College.

The Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company

- 3.9 Both Greg and Ian's overriding service to the City however, is a result of their roles in the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (GHURC).
- 3.10 As Chair and Vice-Chair respectively throughout the life of the company, they have played a key part in its achievements.
- 3.11 The URC became operational in 2005 and they helped establish and launch the company, with significant parts in the Palace of Westminster launch of the Investment prospectus.
- 3.12 Under their guidance, over £600million has been invested in the City including £486million of private investment; 1,000 new jobs created together with 974 new homes, 79,00sqm of commercial/retail floor space and 38ha of land reclaimed. Major improvements have been seen in the Quays, Gloucester Docks and Greyfriars.
- 3.13 Greg also chaired the GHURC's nominations committee and played a key role in restructuring the company after the abolition of the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA). His pioneering decision to relocate the college into the new dockside campus was pivotal in increasing investor confidence and helping kick start the regeneration programme.
- 3.14 Ian also chaired the URC's Marketing and Communications panel and has been heavily involved in the Urban Youth Forum.

3.15 Both Ian and Greg have acted as major ambassadors and advocates for the URC and the City of Gloucester. The City is grateful for their efforts and acknowledges them by the recommendation of this report.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

5.1 To acknowledge the work and contributions of Dr Greg Smith and Mr Ian Mean.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

6.1 The Council is asked to admit Dr Greg Smith and Mr Ian Mean as Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to admit to be Honorary Freemen of the City persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered imminent services to the City. The award of the title of Honorary Freeman has to be made by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

9.1 There are no risks arising from this report

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

10.1 A People Impact Assessment is not required.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

11.1 There are no community safety implications.

Sustainability

11.2 There are no sustainability implications.

Staffing & Trade Union

11.3 There are no staffing implications.

Background Documents: None