

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Special Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March 2014</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Admission of Bishop Michael Perham as Honorary Freeman</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework:</b>	<b>No</b>
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<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>None</b>		

## 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 the Right Reverend Michael Perham, Bishop of Gloucester in recognition of his significant contribution in the spiritual and temporal life of the City and his inspiration in promoting care and kindness between its citizens and communities within the City and wider Diocese.

### 2.0 Recommendations

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

Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Right Reverend Michael Francis Perham, Bishop of Gloucester be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester in recognition of his significant contribution in the spiritual and temporal life of the City and his inspiration in promoting care and kindness between its citizens and communities within the City and wider Diocese.

### 3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Right Reverend Michael Perham celebrates ten years as Bishop of Gloucester in May 2014 and will retire in November of this year.
- 3.2 Bishop Michael's ministry spans 38 years serving as a curate in Croydon, Bishop's Chaplain in Winchester, team rector in Poole, Canon Precentor in Norwich, and was Dean of Derby Cathedral before his installation as Bishop of Gloucester in 2004. He exercised a significant national role in the church before becoming a bishop, as Secretary of the Doctrine Commission, as a member of the Liturgical Commission and as one of the architects of *Common Worship*, much of which he piloted through the General Synod, as one of the first members of the Archbishops' Council and as Chair of the Business Committee of the General Synod.

- 3.3 As Bishop of Gloucester, he has been prominent in a number of issues both nationally and locally and within the Diocese of Gloucester he is president and patron of a range of local organisations.
- 3.4 Locally Bishop Michael has exercised leadership as a founding supporter of the former Flood Relief Fund Committee set up to assist those affected by the widespread flooding in 2007 and was also supportive in reconciling communities following the City disturbances in 2011.
- 3.5 Bishop Michael has also been a member of the selection Panel for the Citizen of Gloucester Award.
- 3.6 To mark Bishop Michael's retirement, in recognition of his long and distinguished career in ministry and his work within the communities of Gloucester and the wider Diocese, Council are recommended to admit Bishop Michael as an Honorary Freeman.

#### **4.0 Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

#### **5.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 5.1 To acknowledge the work and contribution of the Right Reverend Michael Perham to the life of the City of Gloucester.

#### **6.0 Future Work and Conclusions**

- 6.1 The Council is asked to admit the Right Reverend Michael Perham as an 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 eminent services to the City. The decision to award 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