

HONORARY FREEMEN AND FREEWOMEN OF THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Policy Statement

Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 empowers the Council to give the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman to 'persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the City'. The Freedom itself carries no privileges and is purely an honour to recognise the significant and valuable services rendered to the City by that person.

Eligibility and Restrictions

Sitting Councillors and serving employees of the Council are not eligible for nomination.

There are no further restrictions on eligibility except that the individual must have demonstrated significant commitment to the City of Gloucester in some form.

It is anticipated that, other than in exceptional circumstances, the maximum number of Honorary Freeman or Freewomen to be admitted each municipal year is restricted to two in recognition of the important status of this award.

Who Can Make Nominations and How

Nominations can be made by elected Members. Nominations should be submitted to the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager.

All nominations for Honorary Freeman or Freewoman are treated in the strictest confidence and the nominee should not be informed that they have been nominated.

Process

On receipt of a nomination the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager will make the details available to Group Leaders, who will assess the nominee against the criteria. A unanimous decision is required in order to proceed.

If Group Leaders are in agreement that the nominee should be made an Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of Gloucester, the nominee will be invited to accept the honour. If agreed, a Special Meeting of the Council will be convened in order for the nomination to be put before the Council and a formal vote taken. No fewer than two-thirds of those present at the Council meeting must agree the nomination.

The decisions of the Council on all nominations are final.

Assessment Criteria

The following will be taken into account when consideration is given to granting the honour of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the City of Gloucester:

Appendix 1

1. Preference will be given to a person who performs in a voluntary capacity, but this should not preclude the honour being awarded to a person whose dedication and contribution is significantly above that expected for their occupation.
2. The contribution to the community of Gloucester should involve one or more of the following:
 - a. A significant allocation of the person's time in serving members of the community for the improvement of their well-being.
 - b. The promotion, achievement and/or delivery of community services in which a real personal contribution has been made.
 - c. A contribution which is seen to stand above the contributions of most others.

Entitlement

Any person nominated may designate himself/herself Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of Gloucester.