

## **FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO 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 grant Freedom of Entry to 'persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the City'. This honour can be granted to distinguished units of Her Majesty's Forces that are closely associated with the area in question. The Freedom itself carries no privileges and is purely an honour to recognise the significant and valuable services rendered to the City by that service unit.

### **Who Can Make Nominations and How**

Nominations can be made by elected Members.

All nominations for Freedom of Entry are treated in the strictest confidence.

### **Process**

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

If Group Leaders are in agreement that the service unit should be granted Freedom of Entry, the service unit 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**

1. The honour can be bestowed on any distinguished unit of Her Majesty's Forces who are intrinsically linked / associated with the City of Gloucester; be this by location or service to the area.
2. Exceptional contribution to the district and/or country should have been made.
3. An award is given on the basis of appreciation of the services rendered to the country.

### **Entitlement**

The honoured unit may designate themselves as in receipt of an Honorary Freedom of Entry to the City of Gloucester.