

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Special Council	Date:	27 November 2019
Subject:	Freedom of Entry		
Report Of:	Councillor Paul James		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager		
	Email: tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel:	39-6125
Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report recommends conferring Freedom of Entry to the City on NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in recognition of services rendered to the country and close links with the City.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that, pursuant to Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, Freedom of Entry to the City is conferred on NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) is the United Kingdom's leading land warfare contribution to NATO, ready to command and control Allied forces on operations and for crisis response. Led by a British Lieutenant General, the multinational corps is held at high readiness, prepared to deploy to meet UK, EU, coalition or NATO Alliance requirements.
- 3.2 The ARRC was formed in October 1992 from the former 1st British Corps that had served in West Germany throughout the Cold War. It has since become NATO's most operationally experienced multinational corps, having spearheaded the Allied campaigns in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. Until 2010 the ARRC's headquarters was based in Rheindahlen, Germany before moving to its current location at Imjin Barracks, Gloucester. September 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps moving into our local community.
- 3.3 While Imjin Barracks are outside of the City's administrative boundaries, the ARRC are considered by all to be an important part of the community and they look to Gloucester as their home, with a number of their officers living within the City. Furthermore, two previous Commanding Generals, Lieutenant General Sir James

Bucknall and Lieutenant General Tim Evans have been awarded the Mayor's Medal, recognising their efforts to integrate the ARRC into the local community.

3.4 The ARRC contributes to the life of the City in numerous ways. The base is named after one of the most significant battle honours of the Gloucestershire Regiment and they host an annual Imjin Dinner to recognise the importance of the battle. The ARRC play a leading role in Armed Forces Day celebrations and Remembrance Sunday and, despite their very demanding workload, they are steadfast supporters of all City events, entering teams in the Dragon Boat Racing, competing in the 10km and more. They are very strong supporters of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, Gloucester Cathedral and Gloucester Rugby, and maintain strong links with our Civic Leaders through various events.

3.5 In light of the above, the City Council deems it appropriate to confer Freedom of Entry on the ARRC in recognition of services rendered to the country and the close links with the City and places on record its thanks to the ARRC for all it has achieved internationally and for the contribution its presence makes to Gloucester.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 There are no social value considerations.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 There are no environmental implications.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 To acknowledge the eminent services provided by NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and its close links with the City.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 The Council is asked to confer Freedom of Entry to the City on NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in recognition of services rendered to the country and close links with the City.

8.2 The Council looks forward to continuing the close relationship that it has with the ARRC.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 The decision to confer Freeman of Entry must 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 this purpose.

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

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 There are no risk and opportunity management implications arising from this report.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 A People Impact Assessment is not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 There are no staffing and trade union implications arising from this report.

Background Documents: None