

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Special Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>24 February 2022</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Admission of 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 Council to confer the honour and title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester upon the Very Reverend Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester in recognition of his significant contribution and eminent services to the City.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that, pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Very Reverend Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester in recognition of his significant leadership of the social, economic, environmental and spiritual regeneration of Gloucester and for re-affirming the Cathedral as a beacon of hope for all at the heart of the city, county and Diocese..

### 3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 In 2011, the Very Reverend Dean Stephen Lake was installed as the Dean of Gloucester Cathedral.
- 3.2 One of his first leadership tasks was to update the Cathedral's Vision, confirming its ambitions to be "In tune with Heaven, in touch with daily life". Throughout his time as Dean of Gloucester, Stephen has personally lived out this ambition:
- He chaired the Regeneration Advisory Board, which oversaw over hundreds of millions of pounds of investment in the city, and subsequently took over the chairmanship of the City Centre Commission.
  - He has successfully delivered Project Pilgrim I over the past few years, working with a number of partners both within and outside of the city, and has laid the foundations for the successful delivery of Project Pilgrim II in coming years.

- 3.3 During his time as Dean of Gloucester, Stephen has ensured that the Cathedral, its community, staff and volunteers have worked closely with partners – particularly Gloucester City Council – to further the goals and aspirations of its inhabitants including:
- Founding and chairing Gloucester’s Heritage Forum.
  - Supporting Gloucester City Council and Gloucester Culture Trust to secure and deliver the Great Place scheme.
  - Supporting the development and delivery of the Cathedral Quarter High Street Heritage Action Zone.
- 3.4. Gloucester Cathedral is now seen and talked about as “Your Cathedral”: it belongs to those of all faiths and none and its heritage and cultural contributions to the life of Gloucester are notable. With worship having taken place on its site for over 1,000 years and with over 400,000 now visiting each year, the Cathedral is also Gloucester’s anchor tenant, playing an important part in the economic life of the city.
- 3.5 By establishing a vision of a 21st century Cathedral delivering social, economic, environmental and spiritual regeneration, Stephen has ensured that Gloucester Cathedral uses its great assets to benefit the widest possible audience
- 3.6 As Stephen embarks on his new journey as the next Bishop of Salisbury, the Council is delighted to confer upon him the title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester, in recognition of his significant leadership of the social, economic, environmental and spiritual regeneration of Gloucester and for re-affirming the Cathedral as a beacon of hope for all at the heart of the city, county and Diocese.

#### **4.0 Social Value Considerations**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 Environmental Considerations**

5.1 None.

#### **6.0 Alternative Options Considered**

6.1 None

#### **7.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

7.1 The award of Honorary Freeman is considered the most appropriate way to recognise the exemplary service demonstrated by the Very Reverend Stephen Lake during his tenure as Dean of Gloucester.

#### **8.0 Future Work and Conclusions**

8.1 To conclude, the Council warmly thanks the Very Reverend Stephen Lake for his exemplary service to Gloucester and wishes him well in his new ministry as the next Bishop of Salisbury.

8.2 A ceremonial presentation of the honour and title will take place at the Annual Civic Service on 6 March 2022.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

9.1 There are no direct financial implications.

(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 empowers the Council to admit persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City to be Honorary Freemen or Freewomen. The decision to award the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman 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.

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

## **11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications**

11.1 None

## **12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:**

12.1 A PIA is not required.

## **13.0 Other Corporate Implications**

### Community Safety

13.1 None

### Sustainability

13.2 None

### Staffing & Trade Union

13.3 None

**Background Documents:** None