

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Special Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>24 March 2022</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Admission of Honorary Freeman</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Councillor Steve Morgan</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager</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 Mr Robin Morris 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, Mr Robin Morris be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester.

### 3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Robin was one of the founders of Gloucester Civic Trust in 1972, inspired by the demolition of Southern's Stores in Northgate Street, a fine Tudor building that was in the way of modern redevelopment. Many such buildings had been demolished before this, but such was the condition of this ancient building and the heritage value of the timber-framed structure that Robin helped gather together a group of prominent local people to consider the next steps. Sadly, they were too late to save Southern's Stores but the group, which became Gloucester Civic Trust, has ensured that no other similar ancient building has suffered the same fate since.
- 3.2 For almost 40 years Robin has been Chairman and now Honorary Life President. He has been the driving force behind the Trust for all of those 40 years, additionally forming Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd as a buildings preservation trust in 1980. Having stood down from the chair recently Robin is still very active within the Trust and has acted as the Trust's legal advisor, not only for the last 40 years but notably in the negotiations for the transfer of Gloucester Life Museum.
- 3.3 Under Robin's guidance Gloucester Historic Buildings, or GHB, has saved a number of historic buildings, mainly in the Westgate area, from destruction by helping owners with sources of funding, expertise, guidance and above all a

determination to preserve the historic buildings of Gloucester. It's an absolute fact that, without Robin, Gloucester's heritage would be in a far worse position than it now is, and the City owes him a huge debt of gratitude.

3.4 Robin's voluntary work includes that of a senior officer in the Order of St John as well as his many other commitments. He was instrumental in the Civic Trust becoming an early recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and was awarded the MBE in 2014 for his services to the community, particularly heritage, in Gloucester. He was an early and very proud recipient of The Mayor's Medal.

3.5 Gloucester Civic Trust celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee this year and admitting Robin as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester is a fitting tribute his life of service to the City.

#### **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 Mr Morris.

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

8.1 To conclude, the Council warmly thanks Mr Morris for his exemplary service to Gloucester and is delighted to award him the title of Honorary Freeman.

#### **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. The award of the title of Honorary Freeman requires 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

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