

Meeting:	Special Council	Date:	24 March 2022
Subject:	Freedom of Entry		
Report Of:	Councillor Andrew Lewis		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks Council to confer Freedom of Entry upon the Gloucester Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) in recognition of their significant contribution and eminent service 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 Gloucester Branch of the Royal British Legion be granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Gloucester.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Over many years the Gloucester Branch of the Royal British Legion, which was first established on 4th February 1922, has served the cause of all service men and woman of the city and beyond.
- 3.2 The branch's unstinting work to support the financial and social needs of all service personnel, past and present, and their families, alongside the increasing need for emotional support and mental health services, has been exemplary. During the pandemic, their contributions have been especially significant and, whether it is just a friend to talk to or shop, they have risen to the task. The Council has no doubt that the branch's work has saved lives.
- 3.3 During said pandemic, the branch's role in keeping Remembrance alive and essential fundraising has continued and, as evidenced through support for the 'Poppy Appeal', the high regard in which the branch is held throughout all sections of our community is clear. The ordinary members of the RBL coming together for the greater good of the veterans of our armed forces serves as an example to all.

3.4 The RBL has recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, therefore it is the perfect time to recognise the significant contributions made to the City by the local branch through the awarding of this prestigious and richly deserved honour.

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 granting of Freedom of Entry is considered the most appropriate way to recognise the exemplary service demonstrated by the RBL.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 To conclude, the Council warmly thanks the RBL for their exemplary service to Gloucester and is delighted grant them Freedom of Entry to the City of Gloucester.

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 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 award 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