

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Special Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13 July 2023</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>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Jon McGinty</b>		
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>jon.mcginty@gloucester.gov.uk</b>	<b>Tel:</b> <b>396200</b>
<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 Stephen Marston 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 Stephen Marston be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Gloucester.

### 3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Stephen Marston has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire since 2011. Before joining the University, he worked in a range of civil service roles, including as Director General for Universities and Skills in the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills.
- 3.2 Since becoming Vice-Chancellor, Stephen has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the benefit of the City of Gloucester. The Oxstalls Campus has grown significantly under his leadership and tenure, and the contribution of student life to the vibrancy of the City has consequently matched this. During this time, the University has delivered a fantastic new quality Sports Arena for the benefit of the City and students alike, a new Performing Arts Hub, a new Business School and, within this, a class-leading Growth Hub to benefit SMEs and larger businesses across the City.
- 3.3 Within the City Centre, Stephen led the development of new student accommodation at Blackfriars and, of course, led the University to its most major and significant development project, the purchase of the former Debenhams building to create a City Centre campus right in the heart of the City's Kings Quarter. When complete, and alongside the projects that the Council is delivering in

the same area, I believe this will fundamentally transform the City's prosperity and future for the better.

- 3.4 Notwithstanding these contributions, Stephen has made many further voluntary contributions to the cultural life of the City, most notably as a Non-Executive Director of the Gloucester Culture Trust.

#### **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 Marston.

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

- 8.1 To conclude, the Council warmly thanks Mr Marston 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