

Report to the Civic Committee
10 December 2007

Wards N/A

Criteria for conferment of Freedom of the City

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

- 1.1 To set out clear criteria for the granting of conferment of Freedom of the City and Freedom of entry into the City

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Civic Committee adopts and applies these protocols when considering future nominations.

HS/SS
10 December 2007

3. Introduction

- 3.1 By section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 a City Council may admit “persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City” as Honorary Freeman.

Associated with the “Freedom of the City” is the “Freedom of Entry” which has been granted by a number of Cities and Boroughs to service units which have rendered conspicuous service and which are closely associated with the City or Borough.

4. Main Body of Report

4.1 Honorary Freedom

The conferring of the title of Honorary Freeman is the highest honour that a Council of a City can bestow and, in the view of many, should not be given too often. To grant this honour a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of Members voting at a specially convened meeting is required to admit the Honorary Freeman. The resolution should recite the particular grounds upon which the Council have come to their decision, and details of the public services rendered by the recipient should be included. A ceremony usually takes place in the Council Chamber with the recipient being presented with an official scroll by the Lord Mayor.

4.2 Freedom of Entry

“Freedom of Entry” which gives the freedom to march through the streets of the City with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying has now been generally accepted and provides a dignified and satisfactory means of enabling a City to honour a distinguished unit of Her Majesty’s Forces. The ceremony differs slightly from that of Honorary Freeman as it could not easily be carried out in the Council Chamber therefore the scroll is presented at a special ceremony held outdoors.

It should be noted that, in the case of a new service unit assuming honours granted to a former service unit incorporated in it the custom has developed that, as a matter of courtesy, the new unit informs the City of what has happened to the old unit and the City concerned usually confirms formally or informally that the new unit may continue to exercise the privileges granted to the old unit.

Costs associated with the above ceremonies incorporates any hospitality which is given to the recipients together with the cost of the scroll which is presented in a leather tube.

5. Current Holders of the Title (Appendix A)

5.1 The role of Honorary Freeman is attached. There are currently 6 service units and 5 individuals who have the honour of holding the title.

6. Consultation

6.1 The above is a matter of Civic Protocol and therefore does not require consultation other than the agreement of two thirds of voting Members as detailed above.

7. Comments of the Acting Monitoring Officer

7.1 The report correctly sets out the statutory requirements that the title of Honorary Freeman with the associated Freedom of the City can only be conferred by full Council with at least two thirds of the Members voting in favour. It is desirable for the Civic Committee to establish a criteria for making recommendations to Council.

8. Comments of the Head of Workforce Strategy

8.1 The Head of Workforce Strategy notes the contents of this report and has no further comments.

9. Comments of the Director of Corporate Resources

9.1 The Director of Corporate Resources notes the report. All costs associated with such ceremonies must be met from within existing budgets.

10. Conclusions

10.1 The above seeks to set out the main criteria the Committee should apply when considering recommendations for the conferment of Freedom of the City.

11. Recommendations

11.1 That the Civic Committee adopts and applies these protocols when considering future nominations.

Helena Spencer, Head of Democratic Services

Contact Officer: Sue Sedgwick
Telephone No. : 613103

Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: - /

(i) **Civic Ceremonial, Fifth Edition**

HS/SS

10 December 2007

Appendix A

Honorary Freemen

The Most Reverend Desmond Mpilo Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, admitted 2 July 1987

Mrs Helen Suzman, D.B.E., admitted 2 July 1987

Nelson Rolihlahia Mandela, President of South Africa, admitted 2 July 1987

Rt Hon John Prescott M.P., admitted 1 August 1996

Joseph Kevin McNamara M.P., admitted 16 January 1997

Freedom of Entry

The East Yorkshire Regiment, admitted 1 June 1944. Extended to include the name of the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire, 5 June 1958. Transferred to the East Yorkshire Regiment 16 Nov 2006 following Defence reorganisation.

440(Humber) light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, T.A., admitted 28 July 1960. Extended to include the Humber Regiment, Royal Artillery (Territorials), 3 August 1967.

Royal Air Force Patrington, admitted 16 May 1970. Extended to include RAF STaxton Wold, 3 March 1994

150(N) Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport(Volunteers), admitted 1 February 1990. Extended to include 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (V), admitted 3 March 1994.

HMS Iron Duke, admitted 3 March 1994

250th Field Ambulance (Volunteers Unit), admitted 15 July 1999

