

SUBJECT:	FREEDOM OF THE CITY
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
LEAD OFFICER:	CAROLYN WHEATER, CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider a recommendation to grant Lord Cormack the Freedom of the City, pursuant to section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to agree a special meeting on the 24th January 2022 to award the honour.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Freedom of the City is granted by the Council to those individuals or groups of individuals who are persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the local area.

The nomination to award Lord Cormack the Freedom of the City was proposed by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire Mr. Toby Dennis, supported by Mary Stuart CBE, amongst others.

This proposal is in recognition of Lord Cormack's contribution to the rich heritage of the City, and advocating for Lincoln on the national stage. Lord Cormack is a champion of the arts and heritage in Lincoln, being instrumental in several large conservation projects and in bringing world class exhibitions to the City. As Chairman of the Historic Lincoln Trust Lord Cormack was responsible for securing a substantial donation for the creation of the PJ Ross Magna Carta Vault as part of the Lincoln Castle revealed project and was also instrumental in securing much of the match funding for the ongoing Lincoln Cathedral project. Many exhibitions have been seen in Lincoln because of his work. In 2015 Lord Cormack brought Lincolnshire's Great Exhibition to the City, the Battles and Dynasties Exhibition, the Victoria and Albert Exhibition and also the Doomsday Book display, each one bringing thousands of people from around the world to our City. Lord Cormack works tirelessly for the benefit of others, giving much of his time and energy to the City. Lord Cormack is Patron of the International Bomber Command Centre, Deputy High Steward of the Cathedral, Vice President of the Tennyson Society and a member of the University of Lincoln Court. It is within the context of these achievements that the nomination is made.

3. Organisational Impacts

- 3.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

3.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The Honour of Freedom of the City is granted under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to “persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City”.

The Act provides that a special meeting of the Council must be convened with the specific object of passing the resolution to confer the title of Honorary Freedom and this resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at that meeting.

3.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

This has been considered for this report and no implications arise in respect of equality, diversity and human rights and therefore an impact assessment is not needed.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That in accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, an extraordinary meeting of the Council be arranged for the 24th January 2022 to award the Freedom of the City to Lord Cormack.