

# Summons to attend meeting of Full Council

Extraordinary Meeting



**Date:** Tuesday, 19 March 2019

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, City Hall

**To: All Members of Council**

Members of the public attending meetings or taking part in Public forum are advised that all Full Council are now filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's [webcasting pages](#). The whole of the meeting is filmed (except where there are confidential or exempt items) and the footage will be available for two years. If you ask a question or make a representation, then you are likely to be filmed and will be deemed to have given your consent to this. If you do not wish to be filmed you need to make yourself known to the webcasting staff. However, the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now means that persons attending meetings may take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on the meeting (Oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). Members of the public should therefore be aware that they may be filmed by others attending and that is not within the council's control.

**Issued by:** Sam Wilcock, Democratic Services

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**Date:** Friday, 8 March 2019



# Agenda

## 1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

(Pages 3 - 4)

## 2. Apologies for Absence

## 3. Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest from the Councillors. They are asked to indicate the relevant agenda item, the nature of the interest and in particular whether it is a **disclosable pecuniary interest**.

Any declarations of interest made at the meeting which is not on the register of interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion.

## 4. Freedom of the City

To transfer the honour of Freedom of the City and County of Bristol to 39 Signal Regiment. (Pages 5 - 9)

Signed



Proper Officer  
Friday, 8 March 2019



# Public Information Sheet - Full Council

## Public Forum – Full Council

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at [www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk).

Members of the public may present a petition, make a written statement or ask a question at Full Council meetings. Please submit it to [democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk).

Petitions, Statements and Questions must be about a matter the Council has responsibility for or which directly affects the city.

For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>

### **Petitions from members of the public**

- Petitions will be presented to the Council first.
- Petitions must include name, address and details for the wording of the petition.
- The person presenting a petition will be asked to read out the objectives of the petition with one minute allowed.
- A written reply will be provided to the lead petitioner within 10 working days of the Full Council meeting.

### **Statements**

- Statements should be received no later than **12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting**.
- There can be one statement per person and subject to overall time constraints, a maximum of one minute is allocated for presentation.
- Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper.
- For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

### **Questions**

- Questions should be received no later than **three clear working days before the meeting**.
- A maximum of two written questions per person can be submitted.
- At the meeting, a maximum of one supplementary question may be asked, arising directly out of the original question or reply.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated. This information will also be made available at the meeting to which it relates and placed in the official minute book as a public record.

We will try to remove personal information such as contact details. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Public Forum statements will not be posted on the council's website.



### **Process during the meeting:**

- The Chair will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.

### Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

### Security Arrangements for Full Council

The public gallery in the Council Chamber is available for members of the public to observe the Full Council meeting.

The Lord Mayor has determined:

- Attendees should please be quiet and not interrupt proceedings.
- Large bags will be left at reception.
- All loud hailers, banners, and placards must be left at the main entrance and will not be permitted to be brought into the building.
- The Council reserves the right to remove any person who disrupts the proceedings. In appropriate circumstances, the police may be called.

Under our security arrangements, all members of the public (and bags) will be searched. This applies to all members of the public attending the meeting in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending. Visitors' bags are liable to be searched prior to entry, and entry is conditional upon visitors consenting to be searched. Searches are carried out to ensure that no items which may interrupt proceedings are brought into the building. This includes weapons, loud hailers, banners, and placards. Small notices may be acceptable if they are not obstructive or offensive (no more than A4 size).



# Extraordinary Full Council

Tuesday 19 March



**Report of:** *Mike Jackson, Executive Director of Resources - Head of Paid Service*

**Title:** *Transfer of (Military) Freedom of the City*

**Ward:** *Citywide*

**Member Presenting Report:** Cllr Cleo Lake, Lord Mayor

## Recommendation

To transfer Freedom of the City to 39 Signal Regiment.

## Summary

57 Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals (part of the Regimental Headquarters of 39 Signal Regiment based at Horfield Army Reserve Centre), was disbanded in 2015 due to restructuring. 39 Signal Regiment have formally requested the City transfer Freedom to them.

## The significant issues in the report are:

There are none.



**Policy**

1. This proposal re-affirms the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces as per Bristol's Armed Forces Community Covenant

**Consultation**

2. **Internal**  
The Mayor and Party Group Leaders support this proposal.
3. **External**  
N/A

**Context**

The Freedom of the City, in military terms, is an honour conferred by a city council upon a military unit, which grants that unit the privilege of marching into the city "with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed". It is held by the following units in Bristol:

1958 Gloucestershire Regiment

1974 HMS Bristol

2002 HMS Flying Fox

2002 Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment

2008 The Rifles

2009 57 (City and County of Bristol) Squadron (since disbanded), Royal Corps of Signals (Volunteers)

2009 266 (Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery) Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

As a reserve unit, 39 Signal Regiment are made up of people who live and work within the area. They have forged strong links with a number of Bristol companies who have all signed Armed Forces Covenant agreements. The regiment has supported the City's Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service as military lead for planning and delivery (Bristol's military units take this in turn each year). By maintaining their role of providing communications from their base in Bristol and with the emergency services at times of crisis such as flooding and other serious incidents, the Regiment's role continues to grow locally. 39 Signal Regiment will continue to support Bristol through Armed Forces representation at Armed Forces Day, Remembrance and other events.

**Proposal**

Transferring and thus bestowing Freedom of the City to 39 Signal Regiment publicly re-affirms the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces in terms of the Armed Forces Community Covenant. It is likely the regiment will exercise their Freedom by a parade through the city centre in 2020, coinciding with the Royal Corps of Signals centenary and potentially during Armed Forces Week (end of June 2020).

**Other Options Considered**

4. The Council could decide not to make the award, although it is felt this would be against the Council’s efforts to maintain good relations with the Armed Forces and fulfilling our commitment to the Covenant

### **Risk Assessment**

5. There are no risks associated with the proposal.

### **Public Sector Equality Duties**

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons’ disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 8b) N/A

### **Legal and Resource Implications**

A local authority is entitled to confer freedom of the city upon ‘persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area’ (s.249(5) Local Government Act 1972).

**Legal advice provided by Eric Andrews, Lawyer**

**Financial**

**(a) Revenue**

Any costs associated with exercising freedom through a parade will be covered by existing operational budgets.

**(b) Capital**

There are no capital costs associated with this proposal.

**Land**

There are no land matters associated with this proposal.

**Personnel**

The Lord Mayors Office will manage the Freedom Parade and any other associated operational matters.

**Appendices:**

Original letter of request

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**

None

From: Lt Col V Connelly R SIGNALS



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**39<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment**  
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The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Bristol  
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Date: 24 Jun 19

*My Lord Mayor,*

**REQUEST TO TRANSFER THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY TO 39 SIGNAL REGIMENT (THE SKINNERS)**

I write to you on the subject of the Freedom of the City of Bristol currently held by the Army Reserve sub-unit, 57 Signal Squadron, part of 39 Signal Regiment. Sadly, due to a restructuring, 57 Signal Squadron was disbanded in 2015 leaving the Regimental Headquarters of 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment and 93<sup>rd</sup> (North Somerset Yeomanry) Support Squadron at the Horfield site in Bristol. A number of individuals who served with 57 Signal Squadron moved across to the Regimental Headquarters and 93<sup>rd</sup> Signal Squadron on disbandment.

Therefore, a sub-unit of 39 Signal Regiment that no longer exists currently holds the Freedom of the City. Thus, we would be extremely honoured if you would consider transferring the Freedom to 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment (The Skinners) to continue the strong links the Regiment has with Bristol. By way of a celebration of this transfer we would be delighted to exercise the Freedom of the City as part of the wider Armed Forces Day on 29 June 2019 or at some other convenient date in the future.

Presently our regiment enjoys a thriving relationship with the City of Bristol and the surrounding areas. As a Reserve regiment our numbers are made up of people who all live and work within the area. We have fostered strong relationships with a number of Bristol based companies including Airbus, Rolls Royce and Leidos who all have signed Armed Forces Covenant agreements. Looking to the future, we are adapting as an organisation in expanding our role in support of the Armed Forces whilst maintaining our role to provide communications with the emergency services during times of local crises such as flooding or other serious incidents. Such support would be directed from our centre in Bristol. We will continue to support Armed Forces representation in Bristol through Armed Forces Day, Remembrance and various other events.

I eagerly await your kind response.

Yours faithfully,