

CHARTER TRUST FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

28 JUNE 2012

ROYAL MARINE BAND SERVICE



City of Durham

Report of Sharon Spence, Clerk to the Charter Trustees

Purpose of the Report

1. At a previous meeting of the Charter Trustees held on 26 April 2012 it was suggested by the Mayor, that the Charter Trustees consider offering the Freedom of entry to the City to the Royal Marine Band Service in the Queens Jubilee Year. Consideration was deferred until the criteria previously use for granting freedoms was identified.

Background

2. Regulations permit the Charter Trustees to admit persons of distinction and persons who have in their opinion, rendered eminent services to the City as Honorary Freemen. The distinction and privilege of right of entry, 'Freedom of Entry' can be bestowed on a unit or regiment in recognition of the friendship and service that the units have contributed to the City and/or to the community at large or, for example, as a mark of respect and gratitude for the vital support the Service or Unit has given to our Sovereign and County.

Freedom of Entry

3. There appears to be no written criteria use previously for granting Freedoms but I set out below some of the wording on the scrolls:
 - The Rifles were granted the Freedom of Entry in recognition of the long and close association between the City of Durham and Durham Light Infantry.
 - HMS BULWARK was granted the Freedom of Entry in recognition of the close association with County Durham and as a mark of respect and gratitude for the vital support by County Durham's Affiliated Warship to our beloved Sovereign and County.

- The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu as being a person of distinction.
- Jeffrey Lodge in recognition of his long distinguished service and wholehearted commitment to his local community, the City of Durham and the Royal British Legion.

Links to the City are clearer in some of these examples than others.

Proposed Criteria

3. If the Charter Trustees are looking to identify criteria when considering the granting of Freedom of entry perhaps consideration should be given to armed forces who have rendered conspicuous service and / or have links with the City.

Royal Marine Band Service

4. In respect of links with the Royal Marine Band Service, Durham has links with the Royal Marines through HMS BULWARK. Durham has a strong heritage of Brass Band music.

Durham schools provide for future generations of musicians and the Royal Marine Band Service is undertaking workshops with young people from the County Durham Youth Music Service and a joint concert to celebrate Durham's Armed Forces Day is taking place on 24 June 2012. The Mayor is an invited VIP guest to this event which is taking place in the grounds at County Hall, Durham.

Lieutenant Colonel NJ Grace BMus(Hons) FLCM LRSM Royal Marines, the Principal Director of Music, Royal Marine Band Service, is also planning a major concert in Durham Cathedral in 2014 and an event in 2013.

Members will be aware of the service rendered by the Royal Marines to their Sovereign and County.

Recommendation and reason

5. Instructions are requested as to whether the Charter Trustees would wish to offer the Freedom of Entry to the City, to the Royal Marine Band Service.

Contact: Sharon Spence Tel: 0191 383 3507

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - There would be a cost to holding a meeting of the Charter Trustees to grant the Freedom and associated costs of a plaque. These costs can be met from existing budgets.

Staffing - staff time will be involved in the organisation of the Meeting but the costs can be met from existing budgets.

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None