
Honorary Freedom of the City

Decision to be taken by: Council

Date of meeting: 26th March 2026

Lead director/officer: Kamal Adatia, City Barrister and
Head of Standards

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 0.1

1. Summary

To consider conferment of Honorary Freedom of the City to Mr Keith Beaumont.

2. Recommendation

That the City Council under and by virtue of the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 confers on Mr Keith Beaumont the Honorary Freedom of the City of Leicester and causes him to be admitted as Honorary Freeman of Leicester.

3. Report

3.1 Honorary Freedom Criteria and process

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the City Council to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the city. The Act requires that any appointment be approved by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.

The process adopted by the City Council additionally states that:

- For an organisation to be granted freedom of the city they must have a well-established and evidenced connection to the city.
- The honour will only be given to an individual or organisation whom the citizens of Leicester would recognise as deserving of such an honour and whose contribution would stand out from the contributions of most other individuals / organisations for example being recognised as inspirational in their field.

- The individual / organisation must have made a significant contribution to the City either through improvement in the well-being of a significant proportion of city residents or in raising the reputation and profile of the city.

3.2 Mr Beaumont has given astonishing service to our city. He came to Leicester to be the Chief Executive of the City Challenge Company and safely delivered a very problematic regeneration that brought hundreds of millions of pounds of private sector investment to the city. He delivered the regeneration of Bede Island, the reclamation of the power station site on which the King Power Stadium now sits and a multiplicity of community projects.

He then went on to be Chief Executive of the delivery company for the Space Centre which has been so incredibly successful.

His final major contribution was to rescue and turn around the Braunstone New Deal project.

4. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

4.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance, Ext 37 4004

12 March 2026

4.2 Legal implications

The conferment of 'Honorary' Freedom of the City is distinct to the granting of Freedom by 'entitlement' under section 248 Local Government Act 1972. The gesture is a symbolic one, and brings with it no specific entitlements or obligations.

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister, Ext 37 1401

11 March 2026

4.3 Equalities implications

There are no direct equalities implication arising from the report

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer Ext 37 4148

13 March 2026

4.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer

16 March 2026

5. Background information and other papers:

None