

By: Linden Kemkaran - Leader of the Council

Amanda Beer - Chief Executive

To: County Council - 17 September 2026

Subject Freedom of the County - Brigade of Gurkhas

Introduction

- (1) At its meeting on 21 July 2011, the County Council resolved to utilise the power contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to admit persons of distinction, or those who have rendered eminent services to the local area, as honorary freemen.
- (2) There is no statutory definition of “eminent services”, but Selection and Member Services agreed at its meeting on 12 September 2011 that it would be left to the discretion of the Council at the time to assess and recognise the contribution made to the activities and wellbeing of the county of Kent.
- (3) The Brigade of Gurkhas has a long and distinguished record of service to the Crown and the United Kingdom. The conferral of the Freedom of the County would provide formal recognition of that service and of the high esteem in which the Brigade is held by the people of Kent.
- (4) The Freedom of the County is an honorary distinction. It does not confer any special rights, privileges, allowances or payments.
- (5) Members are reminded that, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the proposal must receive the support of not less than two thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting of the County Council convened for the purpose.

Recommendation:

The County Council declares its thanks for and acknowledges the distinguished service of the Brigade of Gurkhas to the Crown and the United Kingdom and, in recognition of that service, formally grants the Brigade of Gurkhas the Freedom of the County.
