

**To: Council**

**Date: 13 April 2015**

**Report of: Head of Law and Governance**

**Title of Report: Granting of the Freedom of Oxford to The Rifles**

## **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To request that Council grant the Freedom of the City of Oxford to The Rifles and allow them to exercise the Honour of the Freedom of Entry to the City of Oxford, by parading through Oxford City on Sunday 24 May 2015.

**Policy Framework:** Not applicable

**Recommendations:** That Council:

1. Grant the Freedom of Oxford, first bestowed on the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1945 and subsequently exercised by the Royal Green Jackets, to The Rifles as a mark of the City's respect and appreciation of their continued service to their Country; and
2. Note that The Rifles will exercise the Freedom of Entry to the City of Oxford, by parading through Oxford City on Sunday 24 May 2015.

## **Introduction and Background**

1. The Freedom of Oxford was bestowed on the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1945. This was subsequently exercised by the Royal Green Jackets Infantry Regiment (the successor Regiment) in 1985, 1995 and 2006.
2. On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005 the Ministry of Defence announced that the Royal Green Jackets Infantry Regiment would amalgamate with The Light Infantry, the Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry and the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment to form a single large regiment to be called The Rifles. The reorganisation into The Rifles took effect on 1 February 2007.
3. The Council is asked to grant the Freedom of the City of Oxford to The Rifles to allow the continuation of this honour as a mark of the City's respect and appreciation of their continued service to their Country.

4. As part of this Honour that they are able to exercise the Freedom of Entry to the City of Oxford.
5. If Council grant this Freedom, The Rifles plan to parade through the City on the 24<sup>May</sup> 2015.

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**List of background papers:** None