



## *The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire*

### **Membership Application Process**

#### **Background**

Membership is restricted to those who live or work in the county of Gloucestershire, including South Gloucestershire, or within 7 miles thereof and who contribute to the wellbeing of the county through, eg, voluntary work, by charitable giving, or by recognised support for, or in, business, the armed forces including reservists and cadets, sport, science, education, and arts & heritage.

Membership may also include those who by national or international endeavour have brought credit to the county. However, those actively engaged in politics are not considered for membership while performing such duties.

New members must be proposed and seconded by other members. Proposal forms are available through the website and from the Clerk.

Ordinary membership is limited to 160 who, following application, may from time to time be appointed by Court from amongst those who have a standing in the county. Similarly, up to five individuals may be invited to become honorary members.

#### **Procedure for Appointing New Members**

1. Using the appropriate form, the proposer must provide the candidate's full name, address, contact details and age (not mandatory) together with a CV and include a statement of not more than 150 words stating how the individual concerned fits the criteria for membership and how they can contribute to the Company.
2. The proposer must sign an undertaking that they have fully described to the applicant the Company's objectives, terms of membership and associated responsibilities, including the necessary financial and charitable commitments, and the activities of the Company's Interest Groups; the form must be countersigned by the seconder.
3. Nominees should ideally have attended at least one Company event as a guest and have been introduced to at least two members of Court at any such event.
4. Court members will be advised of nominees before the next convenient Court meeting and may, if they wish, submit comments in confidence to the Warden beforehand. Should any objections to a nominee arise, the Warden may invoke an exclusion procedure whereby if four or more members call for a secret ballot and subsequently there are three or more 'no' votes the application will be withdrawn.
5. Candidate applications will be considered at the next formal Court meeting or, in the event of a significant delay, eg during the summer period, they may be dealt with ex-Committee. In considering applications the Court will address the following criteria:

- a. The level of vacancies for membership.
- b. The spread of membership between urban/rural, business, sports and arts, gender etc.
- c. The nominee's value to the Company and their commitment to the county.
- d. Whether an invitation to attend a meeting with some members of the Court is necessary.

6. Implicit in these procedures is that in submitting a membership application the prospective member undertakes to comply with the aims and objectives of the Company and accepts the associated responsibilities.

7. If an application is approved after 1 October the member concerned shall pay only half the annual subscription for the year in question plus the extant initial contribution to the Company's Charitable Trust.

8. The Court may at their discretion grant leave of absence to a member, based on their individual circumstances. On returning to full membership the appropriate fees and charitable donations must be paid.