

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION 2022 – BID FOR LORD MAYOR STATUS</b>
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	11 OCTOBER 2021
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b>

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None

<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
The report outlines the opportunity for the council to bid for Lord Mayoralty status as part of a civic honours competition to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
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<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
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	<p>entry will be considered 'in the round', on the merits of its contents rather than on the standard of presentation submitted.</p> <p>Councils will be sent brief comments on their entry when the results of the competitions are announced in 2022. These brief comments will not provide specific reasons as to why an application is successful or unsuccessful and councils are advised not to incur any expenditure on lobbyists for the purposes of influencing the competition.</p>
2.	<p><b>The city's mayoralty throughout history</b></p> <p>Next year marks Southampton's 800<sup>th</sup> Mayoral year. A historic milestone in the city's civic heritage and an accomplishment the city can be proud of.</p> <p>The first use of the term 'Mayor' in Southampton was in a letter dated around 1217. Walter Fortin was the first Mayor of Southampton mentioned by name and served from 1220 to 1234.</p> <p>It is assumed Southampton has always had a Mayor (except between 1249 and 1269 when it was believed Henry III responded to the wishes of the town not to have one during this period).</p> <p>In early medieval times, the Mayor was appointed by the King or Queen of the day. Later, he was appointed by the outgoing Mayor, and since 1835 the Mayor of the city has been elected by his/her fellow councillors and this tradition remains in place today. The Mayor was often a local tradesman or businessman. Richard Andrews the coachbuilder, was Mayor of Southampton five times during the 19th century. The first woman Mayor was Lucia Foster Welch, who was elected in 1927.</p> <p>Back in 1451 it was Henry VI who accorded to Southampton, by charter, the dignity of Admiral of the Port, to the Mayor of the town. The Admiralty Court over which the Mayor-Admiral presided, met in the Bargate Guildhall (or over the Water Gate) and exercised jurisdiction over an area which included Langstone to the east (including the port of Portsmouth), and Lymington to the west. The Mayoral-Admiral was empowered to apprehend and punish pirates and the Admiralty Gallows were erected on the shore near to Southampton's Gods House Tower. The tower remains an important, historical, city landmark to this day.</p> <p>Many rights which existed throughout those early years have now all but disappeared. However, The Mayor of Southampton retains the title of Admiral of the Port and the city's prestigious silver oar (dated 1708) is proudly carried in company with the Corporation Mace (dated 1708) and the Mayor's Mace (dated 1662). It is also customary that Mr/Madam Mayor, as Admiral, is piped aboard Her Majesty's ships when in Port and his/her flag is flown on the vessels.</p> <p>The Mayor's duties have been many and varied over the centuries. In Medieval and Tudor times, the Mayor would hear court cases. In 1497 John Godfray, 265<sup>th</sup> mayor of Southampton was credited with the capture of Perkin Warbeck at Beaulieu and in 1606 the Mayor reports the holding of a</p>

National Day of Prayer (or holiday) for the preservation from fire by gunpowder – the ‘gunpowder plot’.

In more recent times the Mayor presided over weekly council and various town courts, supervised regulations controlling trade and industries, managed corporation properties, dispensed poor relief and charity and carried out orders from central government. During the Commonwealth period he could even perform marriage ceremonies.

Initially the Mayor could serve for as long as he wished, (providing he was in good health and behaved himself). One Mayor is known to have discharged himself from office on the grounds of infirmity in 1234. There was no Mayor elected in 1948 because the term of office changed from November - November to May - May. This tradition remains in place today; with the Mayor elected annually and serves for one year.

### **The Mayoralty today**

After 1835 the Mayor's role gradually became more ceremonial and today Southampton's Mayor, or 'first citizen' and Admiral of the Port is a significant figurehead leading a range of important historic and civic occasions. In any given year, the Mayor will attend between 400 and 500 events in Southampton and wider, to represent the city and the council. To further promote Southampton's rich heritage, the council's Mayoralty Support Officer organises between 30 – 45 events that take place in the Mayor's reception rooms at the Civic Centre (not including high-profile ceremonies including Court Leet, Mayor Making and Remembrance Day).

The Mayor's office has been at the forefront of arranging an array of high-profile civic events in recent years including the Titanic Plaque project, freedom of the city, civic funerals and a variety of civic receptions. In addition, flag raising ceremonies, golden wedding anniversary teas and other occasions are hosted.

Around 500 military personnel and distinguished guests attend our Remembrance ceremony each year, with approximately 250 attending Mayor Making in May. This includes representatives of the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire's office, Honorary Recorder, High Sheriff of Hampshire, Bishops of Southampton, local military, veterans, key stakeholders across the city including representatives of our two universities, as well as Honorary Consul's and judges.

The Mayor has had the honour of welcoming several high-profile figures to the city over the years including members of the Royal Family on official visits including numerous ship naming ceremonies at the Port of Southampton. It was the late Duke (and Duchess) of York (later to become King George VI) who opened the council's civic centre in 1932.

The Queen and Prince Philip visited the council in 1966 and 1974, Prince Charles and Princess Margaret visited in 1979. Princess Anne has also been

a regular guest to the civic centre over the decades; her most recent outing being in 2009. Each year the Mayor also receives an invite to the Royal Garden Party.

As Admiral of the Port, it is customary for high ranking personnel from naval vessels docking in Southampton to pay a courtesy call to the Mayor. HMS Artful (submarine) which is affiliated to Southampton, always courtesy calls when in port. Calls are also made to the Mayor by the Captain of any cruise ship named in the city and in return the Mayor is invited to visit the Captain onboard ship.

Madame Josette Labrat, Honorary French Consul came to Southampton in June 2017 to meet with the Mayor and presented the insignia of Chevalier Legion d'honneur to Southampton resident Henry Leach for his bravery in France in the Second World War.

In 2018 we also welcomed the Head of Policy at the German Embassy who was here to award the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Federal Cross of Merit), to Albert-Lauritz Rasmussen for his service to Germany.

In recent times our Mayoralty has hosted several high-ranking delegations from across the globe including Rizhao in Shandong Province, China, the Vietnam Government and the Mayor of Miami, USA.

In 2018 Southampton's Sherriff hosted the Sheriff's conference. We are one of only 16 cities across the country to have a Sheriff as well as a Mayor. That same year the Mayor was part of a prestigious delegation of civic dignitaries and military personnel attending a 100-anniversary stone laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in commemoration of a Southampton-born serviceman Major General Daniel Beak, who was awarded the Victoria Cross medal in 1918 for his conspicuous bravery and leadership in World War One. One hundred years after the VC was awarded by King George V, a memorial stone was awarded to Commander Beak's hometown.

The Mayoralty boasts strong relationships with local businesses, clubs, charitable and public sector organisations. Representatives of the Princes Trust, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, the Saints Foundation and Southampton Football Club have all been invited to civic ceremonies, as well as hosting events in the Mayor's reception rooms.

Most recently, the Mayor's Office played a leading role in the council's response to Operation Forth Bridge (death of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh) liaising closely with the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire's office and ensuring our plan was executed correctly in accordance with national protocol and Palace wishes.

There is no doubt that the symbol and status of the Mayor is an important 'draw' for the city. We cannot underestimate the significant connections we

have built which contribute to the promotion of Southampton, its history and our place on the local, national and international stage.

**DETAIL**

3.

**Bidding for Lord Mayoralty status**

To bid for Lord Mayor status will not only cement our status as a destination city of historic and cultural significance bringing in investment and growth opportunities through visitors as well as attracting new businesses. The bid will also coincide with an important civic milestone when we celebrate Southampton's 800th Mayor in 2022. This prestigious accolade would also complement our bid to become UK City of Culture 2025.

Only 25 UK cities have been granted Lord Mayoralty status by the sovereign, the most recent being Exeter in 2002 as part of the golden jubilee celebrations. They include;

Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Canterbury, Chester, Coventry, Exeter, Kingston-Upon-Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, City of London, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Stoke on Trent, Westminster, York, Cardiff, Swansea.

Southampton City Council has bid for Lord Mayoralty status on two previous occasions in 1991 and 2001. Despite previous unsuccessful attempts, there is growing momentum for this significant civic accolade to be bestowed; with the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire expressing his support.

Whilst the role and responsibility of a Lord Mayor is similar to that of a Mayor, it is the dignity and additional gravitas of having a Lord Mayor as civic head which is only granted to certain cities enjoying city status in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The Lord Mayor is the 'first citizen' and plays an important civic role in representing the council. Many of the Lord Mayor's duties are ambassadorial and ceremonial; representing the people of the city locally, regionally nationally and internationally. In their duties, the Lord Mayor meets and hosts a wide range of voluntary organisations, charities, businesses, civic, consular and diplomatic representatives, visiting Heads of State and members of the royal family. The Lord Mayor also plays an important democratic role in chairing Full Council meetings and ensuring effective and transparent governance and decision-making is upheld.

The award of Lord Mayoralty status would not only bring significant prestige to Southampton but help to complement and propel our aspirations as a regional destination and centre for innovation, culture and enterprise.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Capital/Revenue**

4.	<p>The bid process will be led by the Head of Business Operations, with the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations as bid sponsor. Officer time will be required from the Democratic, Meeting Support and PA Manager, Mayoralty Support Officer, Communications team, council Archives and the Data, Intelligence and Insight team. There will be no additional financial implication, although officer time in providing key data and information to support and make a compelling case will be essential.</p>
5.	<p><b>Future financial implications</b></p> <p>Currently the Mayor and Sheriff are supported by the Mayoralty Support Officer (0.8 FTE) within the PA Team. This role provides essential PA support in assisting the Mayor and Sheriff with their significant and busy schedules. The postholder also has events management responsibilities within their role and leads the arrangements for all Mayoralty events and engagements. For the organisation of Remembrance and Mayor Making, the council's Events Management team are engaged and work with the Mayor's office to help deliver these occasions. Outside of these important events the responsibility for the organisation of all other Mayoralty engagements rests with the Mayor's office.</p> <p>With next year being the 800th Mayoral year, this historic and significant milestone will be celebrated and the Mayor/ council, will be looking to commemorate this important landmark with special events over and above those arranged in a standard mayoral year.</p> <p>In addition to the 800th Southampton Mayoral year celebrations, 2022 also marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee when Her Majesty will become the first British Monarch to celebrate seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952. It is anticipated that engagements and events will be organised to commemorate this historic milestone involving the Mayor and requiring input and support from the Mayor's office.</p> <p>Finally, as part of Southampton's City of Culture 2025 bid, should the submission be successful, there is expected to be further requirement for the Mayor to attend additional events as part of this prestigious accolade and this needs to be factored into future planning.</p> <p>To that end an additional resource will be required within the Mayor's office to cater for the additional demand on the service as a result of the 800<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Year, Platinum Jubilee, and if the council's City of Culture bid is successful. A business case is currently being developed to anticipate these commitments and provide effective support to the Mayor and Sheriff of the city moving forwards. Should the council's bid for Lord Mayoralty status also prove successful, a business case for the required resource for the Mayor's Office will be provided.</p> <p>An example of the cost of additional Mayoralty resource could include ad-hoc chauffeuring and reception costs and an additional Support Officer. A ballpark figure of £50k additional cost is estimated at this time prior to the detailed business case.</p>

<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
6.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
7.	Local Government Act 1972 and other legislation
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
8.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
9.	There are no specific risks associated with the bidding of Lord Mayoralty status for the Platinum Jubilee year.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
10.	None

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All wards and communities are included in the opportunities presented by the status of Lord Mayor if the city is successful.
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Bid invitation letter

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None.
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Other Background Documents: None</b>	
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	
2.	