

Report of the Head of Civic Legal and Democratic Services

Establishing a Mansion House and Mayoralty Advisory Group

Summary

- 1) This report proposes the establishment of an Advisory Group to oversee the ongoing development and use of the Mansion House and promote the profile of the Lord Mayor and Civic Party.

Background

- 2) The Office of Lord Mayor in York is traditionally the second oldest in the country after London and the Mansion House is officially the formal residence of the Lord Mayor.
- 3) During the 1970s and 1980s a Sub-Committee of Policy & Resources was formally established to deal with issues related to the Mansion House. That Sub-Committee disbanded and some years after, during the 1990s, a Mansion House Advisory Group, comprising various interested parties and relevant Members was created but never formally established on the Council's structure. This Group no longer exists.
- 4) However, considerable interest has been maintained outside formal structures in the future of the Mansion House and the Lord Mayoralty in York by collective former Lord Mayors and Sheriffs.
- 5) There is much work to be done now to maximize the potential of the Mansion House in its own right as a corporate and events venue and a building of historical importance, as well as it being the official home of the Lord Mayor. Some of that work has been started by officers. However, it is now considered appropriate to revive the former Advisory Group with a clearly structured reporting line, to assist in taking forward the work which has been started.

Consultation

- 6) Group Leaders have been consulted on the establishment of this Advisory Group, as have the current and former Lord Mayors. All are agreed that such a Group would now be appropriate to assist in further development work with the Mansion House and the profile of the Lord Mayoralty.

Analysis

7) Terms of Reference and Reporting Lines

Attached at Annex A are some proposed draft terms of reference for the Advisory Group, to which Members' approval is sought.

- 8) It is suggested that the Group report to the Executive to advise it on the future development and use of the Mansion House and on promoting the Lord Mayoralty in York. On a diarised basis the Group would meet 4 times a year, unless required specifically for a special purpose otherwise. It would be comprised as follows:

Lord Mayor (to Chair the Group)
Deputy Lord Mayor

3 x elected Members (cross party, on the proviso that the party taking the current Lord Mayor position, relinquishes their seat that year to another party perhaps not otherwise represented)

4 x representatives from former Lord Mayors

In addition, the Advisory Group (see proposed terms of reference), be given delegated authority to co-opt relevant external organisations or individuals as it sees appropriate and commensurate with the work.

Options

- 9) (a) To establish the Advisory Group with a reporting line to the Executive and approve the composition and proposed terms of reference, as set out in this report;
(b) To agree not to establish the Advisory Group;
(c) To establish the Advisory Group with some revisions to the proposed terms of reference, attached at Annex A

Corporate Priorities

- 10) Establishing this Advisory Group to assist in the ongoing development of the Mansion House and Lord Mayoralty would most directly contribute to the Councils' aspirations to be a City of Culture (in terms of providing greater access to the Mansion House) and to be a more effective organisation in terms of how we promote and manage our business, making greater use of the Lord Mayor in their ambassadorial role.

Implications

11) There are no known financial, legal, human resource or other implications associated directly with the contents of this report, which is purely to set up an Advisory Group.

Risk Management

12) In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report. If, however, an Advisory Group were not formerly set up on the structure, there would continue to be a danger that progress in these areas would be less structured.

Recommendation

13) Members are asked to establish a Mansion House and Mayoralty Advisory Group based on the composition set out in this report and to approve the draft terms of reference for that Group, set out at Annex A.

Reason

14) To enable a formal process to be established for overseeing the development of the Mansion House and Lord Mayoralty

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Report Approved **Date** 24/112009

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All Guildhall

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes:

Annex A – Draft Terms of Reference