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## **Mansion House & Mayoralty Advisory Group**

**24 February 2010**

Report of the Head of Civic Democratic & Legal Services

### **Co-option to the Advisory Group**

#### **Summary**

1. This report advises the Group of proposals to co-opt those external organisations onto the Group, with whom work is currently ongoing in relation to progressing developments with the Mansion House.

#### **Background**

2. At the Council meeting in December 2009, this Advisory Group to the Executive was established with the power to determine any such co-optees as it may see fit.
3. Over the years, any significant improvement or development of the Mansion House has relied upon the invaluable contributions or assistance of others. This being largely due to the expertise, knowledge and funding required to progress developments with a significant Georgian Town House. Members of this Group will be familiar with the contributions made over the past 10 years by the Civic Trust and now York Archaeological Trust (YAT)

#### **Consultation**

4. At this stage, no consultation has taken place with any particular external organisations about potential co-option onto this Group. The reason being that this is a matter, initially, for the Group to consider and then for appropriate offers to be made. However, officers are confident that both YAT and the Civic Trust would be happy to become co-optees.

#### **Options**

5. This Group has the option of co-opting suitable external organisations onto it or not. It can support the options for co-option suggested in this report, at this stage, or it could suggest alternative organisations.

#### **Analysis**

6. The progress report also on the agenda for this meeting sets out the considerable work taking place in relation to developing the Mansion House

both as an improved business operation and as a visitor attraction. That report clearly states the considerable ongoing practical support being provided by YAT through, initially, a year long relationship with the Council. It would seem highly appropriate and sensible for an appropriate representative of YAT to be co-opted onto this Group, to contribute to shaping future progress, in collaboration with Members of the Group.

7. More than ten years ago, the Civic Trust provided considerable historical, financial and conservation support in bringing together the 'refurbishment' of the Mansion House, in terms of the interior we see today. Since that time, the Trust have actively supported the Mansion House and its public opening. The Trust has continued to provide advice on security, conservation, insurance etc. Equally, therefore, it is suggested that the involvement of the Trust as a co-optee to this Group is essential to the ongoing development of the Mansion House. The Mansion House & Guildhall Manager works, in partnership today, with the Trust and Fairfax House on many ventures.
8. Officers would commend the co-option of these two organisations now at the onset of developments but, this Group may well wish to consider others, now or in the future. Such other organisations which may be worthy of consideration could be:
  - York Museums Trust;
  - Visit York;
  - York Chamber of Commerce
  - A representative of Mansion House volunteers

## **Corporate Strategy**

9. Supporting and developing the Mansion House both as a commercial and cultural activity contributes to the Council's stated aims of becoming a Thriving City, supporting successful economic activity, as well as being both a Cultural and Learning City.

## **Implications**

10. There are no known financial, legal, human resource or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report. The power to co-opt has been vested with the Group by Council, in setting the remit on 3 December 2009.

## **Risk Management**

11. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report. However, there is a risk to managing the development of the Mansion House if appropriate 'partners' are not actively involved in the process along the way. It is for that reason that it is considered appropriate to co-opt appropriate organisations to work with the Group in its aims.

## Recommendations

12. Members are asked to co-opt representatives of both the York Archaeological Trust and the Civic Trust onto the Advisory Group with immediate effect and to consider representatives from any other Groups which may be appropriate for co-option.

**Reason:** In order to ensure the Group is involving appropriate Organisations.

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**Report Approved**



**Date** 12 February  
2010

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

**Finance:** N/A

**Legal:** Alison Lowton

**Wards Affected:**

All



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:**

None