

# THE CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR BOURNEMOUTH



Report subject	<b>Update on Assets</b>
Meeting date	24 January 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Charter Trustees are advised of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide an update on the ownership of chess cups used for a chess competition supported by a previous Mayor of Bournemouth in 2008/09.</li> <li>• To consider a request from the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum for the Mace and Badge donated by Merton and Annie Russell Cotes to be loaned to them for 'The Road to the Museum: 20 steps to the opening of Bournemouth's cultural gem exhibition' which is part of the Museum's Centenary Celebrations for 2022.</li> <li>• To consider the donation of two portraits of Basil and Mabel Beckett former Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth Borough Council.</li> <li>• To update the Charter Trustees on the annual verification of assets.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>(a) The return of the chess cups to Sir George Meyrick be noted and that the cups be removed from the Charter Trustees asset register.</b></p> <p><b>(b) The request for the loan of the Mace and Badge donated by Sir Merton and Lady Annie Russell Cotes in 1890 by the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum for the 'Road to the Museum: 20 Steps to the opening of Bournemouth's Culture gem exhibition' be approved for up to 9 months subject to the Charter Trustees having access to the regalia as required for civic events and engagements during this period and all appropriate security and insurance cover being put in place by the Museum for the duration of the loan.</b></p> <p><b>(c) The Charter Trustees consider the donation of two portraits of Basil and Mabel Beckett former Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth Borough Council.</b></p>

	<b>(d) The Charter Trustees consider the update on the annual verification of assets.</b>
Reason for recommendations	To ensure appropriate management of the Charter Trustees assets in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations.
Honorary Clerk	Graham Farrant
Report Authors	Karen Tompkins, Deputy Head of Democratic Services
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

### **Background**

1. The Charter Trustees are asked to consider the issues detailed below relating to its assets.

### **Chess Cups**

2. The Charter Trustees had previously received a request from a member of the Bournemouth & District Chess League asking for the return of two chess cups as he was of the opinion that the cups had been donated to the League by Sir George Meyrick Snr in 2009. Charter Trustees have previously been advised that it had not been possible to establish any definitive proof of ownership as there were no records to show that the chess cups were donated to the former Bournemouth Borough Council.
3. The cups were purchased by Sir George Meyrick Snr in 2008/09 and this being the case technically, they belong to the family. Historically, Sir George Meyrick Snr had attended the prizegiving ceremony with the Mayor of Bournemouth to jointly present the chess cups to the winning schools, however, there have been no presentations since 2016.
4. Contact has been made with Sir George Meyrick and a response has been received indicating that as it is believed that the Chess League are looking to reinstate the competition without the Mayor's involvement, he has requested that the cups be returned to his family in order that the family can continue to present the winning trophies.
5. In light of the above the Charter Trustees are asked to note the position and that the cups will be removed from the Charter Trustees Asset Register.

### **Request to loan the Mace and Badge donated by Sir Merton and Lady Annie Russell Cotes in 1890 to the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum**

6. The Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum has advised that the exhibition "The Road to the Museum: 20 steps to the opening of Bournemouth's cultural gem" is part of the Museum's centenary celebrations for 2022. The display focuses on Sir Merton's achievements and activities in the run up to the opening of East Cliff Hall to the general public in 1922, and Sir Merton's time as Mayor and his and Lady Annie

Russell Cotes gift of the mace and the badge is featured in the display. The Museum would welcome the opportunity to display these items in the couple's home to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their great acts of generosity to the people of Bournemouth and beyond.

7. In light of the above the Museum has requested the loan of the Mace and the Badge for the exhibition. It is proposed that the exhibition will run for approximately 8/9 months. However, it is acknowledged that the regalia would temporarily be removed from the exhibition if required for civic events and engagements.
8. The Charter Trustees are advised that the request would be subject to all appropriate security and insurance cover being put in place for the duration of the loan.

#### **Donation of portraits of Basil and Mabel Beckett former Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth Borough Council to the Charter Trustees for Bournemouth**

9. The Charter Trustees are advised that contact has been made by a member of the Beckett family offering to donate two portraits one of Basil Beckett and the other of Mabel Beckett who were the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth Borough Council in 1969/70.
10. The Charter Trustees are asked to consider the request and if accepted the portraits will be displayed as appropriate and included on the Asset Register.

#### **Annual verification of assets**

11. The Charter Trustees will be updated at the meeting on the annual verification of assets in accordance with the recommendations from the Internal Auditors.

#### **Summary of financial implications**

12. The Charter Trustees are advised that any costs associated with the request to loan the Mace and Badge to the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum will be funded by the Museum.

#### **Summary of legal implications**

13. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

#### **Summary of human resources implications**

14. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

#### **Summary of sustainability impact**

15. There is no sustainability impact associated with this report.

#### **Summary of public health implications**

16. There are no public health implications associated with this report.

#### **Summary of equality implications**

17. In respect of the request to loan the Mace and Badge to the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum any equality issues will be considered in conjunction with the Museum. It is acknowledged that if the request is agreed there is an opportunity for

the regalia to be accessible to a wider audience as part of the centenary celebrations.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

18. In respect of the request to loan the Mace and Badge to the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum any risk assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with the Museum if the request is agreed.

### **Background papers**

None.

### **Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.