

THE CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR BOURNEMOUTH



Report subject	Report of the Civic Working Group
Meeting date	24 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report summarises the issues discussed at the first Civic Working Group as established at the previous meeting of the Charter Trustees and seeks support for any recommendations arising.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) no additional portraits be hung in the Mayor's Parlour in accordance with Bournemouth's history and tradition; (b) the former Bournemouth Borough Council yellow and blue flag be adopted as the Charter Trustees' Civic Flag and that it be flown on the following occasions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formal meetings of the Charter Trustees including Mayor Making; • civic services; • at half-mast on the day of the funeral of a former Bournemouth Mayor, subject to the BCP Council Flag Flying Policy; (c) the Charter Trustees support the establishment of a meeting between the Civic Parties of both Bournemouth and Poole to agree a new engagements matrix for reporting to the Charter Trustees/BCP Councillors to agree.
Reason for recommendations	To seek support of the Charter Trustees for the recommendations arising from the Civic Working Group.
Report Authors	Richard Jones (Head of Democratic Services)
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. At the meeting held on 23 June 2022, the Charter Trustees established a Civic Working Group with the following membership:
 - The Mayor (Councillor Lawton)
 - The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kelsey)
 - Budget Signatories (Councillors Williams and Davies)
 - Councillor Beesley
 - Councillor Filer
2. In addition, further Charter Trustees and Officers would be invited to the Working Group where additional skills or knowledge would be advantageous.
3. The inaugural meeting of the Working Group was convened on 6 September 2022. In addition to the above membership, Councillor Dunlop and officers from the Civic Team attended the meeting.

Purpose of the Civic Working Group

4. The establishment of the Civic Working Group provided an opportunity for earlier discussion of relevant matters and to allow members of the Charter Trustees to shape proposals for submission and consideration at the full Charter Trustee body. Meetings of the Civic Working Group would be scheduled quarterly.
5. The remainder of this paper draws upon those matters discussed and includes, where appropriate, a recommendation for determination.

Display of Past Mayor Photographs

6. The Working Group discussed the on-going preservation of the photographs of all Bournemouth Past Mayors on display on the ground floor corridor outside the Mayor's Parlour as well as the content and historic importance of those contained within the Mayor's Parlour.
7. For avoidance of doubt, the Civic Working Group was reminded that the historic building had transferred to BCP Council on 1 April 2019 and that the Mayor and Mayoress' Parlours had been allocated for use by the Charter Trustees. The remaining rooms and corridors therefore fell within the remit of BCP Council.
8. It was considered that the photographs on display in the corridor were part of the Town's history and should therefore remain in situ, although it was recognised that space was limited. The Working Group was further advised that the paintings in the Mayor's Parlour were of historic importance, including those Mayors who had served three or more Terms of Office, and Bessie Bicknell's portrait as the first female Mayor.
9. Two recent Mayors (Councillors Borthwick & Phillips) had decided to donate their portraits with the former hung in the Parlour and the latter awaiting fixing. On a previous occasion in the 1960's, a Mayor requested his painting to be displayed in the Parlour, however, this was not permitted and it was subsequently hung in the Willows Room.
10. Various issues were discussed in relation to the portraits including:
 - a. The desire to maintain the Mayoral Gallery but replacing the older Mayoral photos in the ground floor corridor with photos of the new Mayors

- b. The desire to maintain the Mayoral Gallery as it is but photos of the Charter Trustee Mayors being displayed elsewhere, e.g., the Mayoress' Parlour
 - c. Maintaining the historic integrity of the Mayor's Parlour, with the two smaller portraits of Councillors Borthwick & Phillips, being removed
 - d. The desire to keep the additional framed photos in the ground floor corridor (Historic Councils, etc) as part of recording important occasions.
11. Whilst it was conceded that Cllr Borthwick was the last Mayor of Bournemouth Borough Council and the first Mayor of the Bournemouth Charter Trustees, the Working Group considered that these two portraits should not be displayed in the Mayor's Parlour. If they were to be placed on display, it was considered that another room used by the Charter Trustees, such as the Mayoress' Parlour, would be appropriate. It was agreed that the Mayor and Cllr Dunlop would speak to Cllrs Borthwick & Phillips about their portraits being displayed in the Mayoress' Parlour ahead of the Charter Trustees meeting in October.

RECOMMENDATION

12. **It is RECOMMENDED that no additional portraits be hung in the Mayor's Parlour in accordance with Bournemouth's history and tradition.**

Civic Flag

13. The Civic Working Group discussed the potential adoption of a flag for the Charter Trustees. The Deputy Mayor suggested the adoption of the yellow and blue flag previously used to signal the former Bournemouth Borough Council meetings, and this was supported.
14. The Working Group noted that there was only a single flag-pole outside the Civic Centre which could potentially restrict the flying of the Charter Trustees flag if the relevant date conflicted with the other flag flying protocols or national commemorations.

RECOMMENDATION

15. **It is RECOMMENDED that the former Bournemouth Borough Council yellow and blue flag be adopted as the Charter Trustees' Civic Flag and that it be flown on the following occasions:-**
- **formal meetings of the Charter Trustees including Mayor Making;**
 - **civic services;**
 - **at half-mast on the day of the funeral of a former Bournemouth Mayor, subject to the BCP Council Flag Flying Policy.**

Civic Engagements Matrix

16. The Civic Working Group received a copy of the current engagement matrix which was adopted by the Shadow Cabinet in 2019. The matrix, which is published on the Council's web site, sets out the roles of the Chairman of BCP Council and the Charter Mayors. The BCP Chairman is a statutory role and commands the position

as First Citizen for the whole of the BCP Council area, second only to HM The King or his representative, a position which must be respected. The two respective Charter Mayors being equivalent to other of Town Mayors and Chairmen of Parish Councils.

17. Although it was acknowledged that the Chairman of BCP Council was the first citizen, the Working Group considered that the matrix needed an overhaul. The presence of the Mayor, with the chain of office and, where appropriate, robes, was considered to raise the gravitas for visitors, investors, VIP's, and other guests to events.
18. The Working Group was advised the office of Chairman was relatively new, and it was important to promote each of the respective roles within the area.

RECOMMENDATION

19. **It is RECOMMENDED that the Charter Trustees support the establishment of a meeting between the Civic Parties of both Bournemouth and Poole to agree a new engagements matrix for reporting to the Charter Trustees/BCP Councillors to agree.**

New links for the Mayoral Chain

20. The Civic Working Group was advised that prior to the formation of the Charter Trustees, it had been recommended that a new row of links be added to the back of Mayor's Chains of Office as a number of Past Mayors names needed to be added. The additional row of links would further help to counter-balance the weight of the badge of office. Shortly before the pandemic, quotes for a new row of 5 oval links and 4 rose links, were obtained.
21. It was acknowledged that the quotes would require revision and the Working Group requested that updated quotes be obtained, with the potential for additional rows of links, with the revised quotes being brought to the next meeting of the Civic Working Group for consideration.

Summary of financial implications

22. There are no financial implications arising from this report and the recommendations before the Charter Trustees.

Summary of legal implications

23. The roles and responsibilities of the Charter Trustees is defined in legislation, standing orders and the handbook. The issues raised in this report are in accordance with these provisions.

Summary of human resources implications

24. There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

25. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

26. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

27. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Summary of risk assessment

28. The Charter Trustees maintain a separate risk register which is reviewed annually by the Charter Trustees as a body. Any implications arising from decisions of the Charter Trustees which may have an impact on the register will be updated accordingly.

Background papers

None

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.