

THE CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR POOLE



Report subject	Report of the Civic Working Group
Meeting date	26 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	It is RECOMMENDED that: (a) the Charter Trustees support the establishment of a meeting between the Civic Parties of both Poole and Bournemouth to agree a new engagements matrix for reporting to the Charter Trustees/BCP Councillors to agree. (b) the Charter Trustees support the amended wording in paragraph five, page seven, of the Charter Trustee Handbook.
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 22 June 2022, the Charter Trustees established a Civic Working Group with the following membership:
 - The Mayor (Councillor Trent)
 - The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Bagwell)
 - The Sheriff (Councillor Mike Brooke)
 - Past Mayors (Councillors Stribley, J Butt, Gabriel and Le Poidevin)
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 10 October 2022. Attendance was limited to the Mayor and the Sheriff, however, as a non-decision making Group the meeting continued. The Sheriff chaired the meeting at which officers from the Civic Team were also in attendance.

Purpose of the Civic Working Group

4. The establishment of the Civic Working Group provides 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.

Schedule of dates for future Civic Working Group Meetings

6. The Civic Working Group suggested that they would meet six to eight weeks before the scheduled Charter Trustee meetings.

Civic Flag

7. The Civic Working Group agreed to defer this item to the next Working Group meeting when additional Trustees could attend.

Remembrance Day Service & Parade

8. The Civic Working Group were updated on the arrangements for the Annual Service of Remembrance and Parade and the observation of the Two Minute Silence due to the closure of Poole Civic Centre.

Accommodation Review

9. The Mayor advised that he intended to invite the Leader of BCP Council to the next Charter Trustee meeting to provide an update on what is happening to Poole Civic Centre and some timescales.

Civic Engagements Matrix

10. 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 Town Mayors and Chairmen of Parish Councils.
11. 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.
12. 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

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

Civic nominations

14. The timetable for Civic nominations was discussed as were the amendments to the Civic Handbook that were agreed at the June meeting. It was suggested that the wording in paragraph 5, page 7 be amended to require the result of the ballot to be reported to the Charter Trustees at their meeting in January. For ease of reference, the relevant paragraph with the proposed amendment is set out below:

The Charter Trustees shall ~~confirm~~ be advised of the ballot result at their meeting in late January and consequently confirm the names of those Trustees who shall be designated Mayor Elect, Deputy Mayor Elect and Sheriff Elect. Except in exceptional circumstances and in line with the traditions of the office, the Sheriff from the preceding year shall become Mayor Elect, and the Mayor from the preceding year shall be designated Deputy Mayor Elect.

RECOMMENDATION

- 15. It is RECOMMENDED that Charter Trustees support the amended wording in paragraph five, page seven, of the Charter Trustee Handbook.**

Any Other Business

16. The Working Group discussed the promotion of the Mayoralty, Shrievalty and the role of the Poole Charter Trustees. Charter Trustees were reminded that the resources available to support the Charter Trustees was limited without incurring additional costs.
17. It was suggested that The Charter Trustees could be more involved in assisting with operational activities and actively promote the role of the Poole Charter Trustees. The Working Group was advised that the Mayor of Poole had a Facebook page, and all Charter Trustees should be encouraged to following the page to help raise awareness.

Summary of financial implications

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

Summary of legal implications

19. 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

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

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

Summary of risk assessment

24. 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.