

THE CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR BOURNEMOUTH



Report subject	Report of the Civic Working Group
Meeting date	17 July 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report summarises the issues discussed at the Civic Working Group and seeks support for any recommendations arising.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Charter Trustees agree that Mayor-making 2025 be held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 11:15am.
Reason for recommendations	To seek support of the Charter Trustees for the recommendations arising from the Civic Working Group.
Report Authors	Neil Fraser, Deputy 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 to make recommendations at the Charter Trustee Meetings.

Purpose of the Civic Working Group

2. 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.
- 2.1 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

3. The Civic Working Group agreed that they would meet six to eight weeks before each Charter Trustee meeting.
- 3.1 The most recent meeting was held on 13 June 2024.

FOR NOTING:

Use of the term 'Consort'

4. The Civic Working Group agreed that the term "Mayor's Consort" should be used instead of "Mayors Escort" irrespective of gender, sex, marital status, or relationship. It was felt that this terminology avoided any negative connotations associated with the more modern interpretation of the term 'escort'.

Promotion of the Mayoralty, Charter Trustees and local organisations

5. The Civic Working Group discussed the need to improve engagement and attendance at meetings of the Charter Trustees. It was noted that a lack of timely RSVPs to meeting invitations was making it challenging for the Civic team to ensure there was a sufficient number of Trustees present to conduct business. It was agreed that a separate meeting invitation be sent prior to any Charter Trustee meeting and it is asked that Trustees reply to that email to confirm their attendance (or otherwise.)
- 5.1 To encourage newer Trustees to attend and participate in meetings, it was suggested that the Civic team schedule a refresher meeting to set out the purpose of the Charter Trustee and the history of the town in the hope that this would encourage participation. Trustees will receive an invitation once a suitable time and date is identified.
- 5.2 It was also requested that the Civic team confirm the regulations in respect of removing a Trustee following repeated absence at meetings.

For the benefit of Trustees, the relevant rule has been reproduced below:

Charter Trustee Regulations 2009

(7) Charter trustees may remove from office a councillor appointed under this regulation if, in their opinion, that councillor has, without sufficient cause, failed to attend two or more consecutive meetings of theirs.

FOR DECISION:

Mayor-making 2025

6. As highlighted at the Charter Trustee meeting on 24 May 2024, the current date for Mayor-making 2025 is 23 May 2025. Owing to the proximity to the May bank holiday on 26 May 2025, it had been suggested that this date be reviewed. On this basis, it is now proposed that the Mayor-making be held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 11:15am.

Recommendation: that the Charter Trustees agree that Mayor-making 2025 be held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 11:15am.

Summary of financial implications

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

Summary of legal implications

8. 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

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

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

Summary of risk assessment

13. 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

14. None.

Appendices

15. None.