

THE CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR BOURNEMOUTH



Report subject	Report of the Bournemouth Civic Working Group
Meeting date	24 June 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report summarises the issues discussed at the Civic Working Group meetings held since the last Charter Trustee meeting and seeks support for any recommendations arising
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Charter Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. accept the gifting of the Mayoral portrait from Councillor Farquhar; and b. consider whether the 2022 decision, that no additional portraits are to be hung in the Mayor's Parlour, should be overturned so that Cllr Farquhar's portrait may potentially be hung in the Parlour, subject to costs.
Reason for recommendations	The Civic Working Group is responsible for making recommendations to the Charter Trustees at Meetings
Report Authors	Neil Fraser, Deputy Head of Democratic Services
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. At the meeting held on 23 June 2022, the Charter Trustees (CT) established a Civic Working Group (CWG) to make recommendations to the Charter Trustees at Meetings.

Purpose of the Civic Working Group

2. The establishment of the CWG provided an opportunity for earlier discussion of relevant matters and to allow members of the Charter Trustees to shape proposals for submission to, and consideration by, the full Charter Trustee body.

3. The Civic Working Group agreed that they would meet six to eight weeks before each Charter Trustee meeting, where possible.
4. The remainder of this paper draws upon those matters discussed and includes, where appropriate, a recommendation for determination.

Trustee attendance at meetings

5. At the meeting held of January 2025, the matter of attendance at Charter Trustee meetings was discussed. As a result, Trustees resolved that attendance at meetings was to be reviewed at each subsequent meeting by way of a standing item. Meeting attendance details can be found at Appendix 1 to that separate report.
6. The CWG has reviewed the attendance details and feel it would be beneficial to again ask the Honorary Clerk to write to all Trustees who have not attended the two most recent meetings. In doing so, it is requested that the Honorary Clerk reiterate the importance of attending meetings and to offer the relevant Trustees the opportunity to confirm whether they wish to continue as Charter Trustees or whether they wish to be considered for removal. Trustees will recall that at the previous CT meeting, held on 20 May 2025, two Trustees' request for removal was formally approved.
7. This recommendation is set out in the report detailed within agenda item 7.

Mayoral Portrait of Councillor George Farquhar

8. At the CT meeting of 20 May 2025, then Charter Mayor Councillor George Farquhar confirmed that he was gifting his Mayoral portrait to the people of Bournemouth, through the Charter Trustees.
9. Currently, the portrait is sited on an easel within the Bournemouth Mayor's Parlour. At the meeting held on 24 October 2022, Trustees resolved that no additional portraits were to be hung in the Mayor's Parlour and, given the size of the portrait, it cannot safely remain in situ and the Civic Team lack appropriate space for its safe long-term storage. The 2022 resolution has been reproduced as follows:
RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) no additional portraits be hung in the Mayor's Parlour in accordance with Bournemouth's history and tradition;
10. An offer to display and subsequently store the portrait has been received from the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum. Alternatively, the CWG has requested that the civic team explore the feasibility of replacing a portrait, for example the portrait of Captain Lewis Tregonwell, with Cllr Farquhar's. To facilitate this, associated measurements and redecorating costs will need to be procured, alongside a review of any other considerations inherent to the hanging of portraits in the room.
11. It is requested that Charter Trustees consider whether they wish to overturn the 2022 decision to allow for measurements and costings to be undertaken. If agreed, further information will be provided to the CWG.

RECOMMENDED: That Charter Trustees:

- a. accept the gifting of the Mayoral portrait from Councillor Farquhar; and
- b. consider whether the 2022 decision, that no additional portraits are to be hung in the Mayor's Parlour, should be overturned so that Cllr Farquhar's portrait may potentially be hung in the Parlour, subject to costs.

Service Level Agreement

12. Work is underway on the drafting on a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which sets out the provision of support to the Charter Trustees from BCP Council.
13. The CWG will give further direction on the SLA before making a recommendation on its formal approval to a future CT meeting.

Feedback to the recent Mayor-making event

14. The CWG members provided feedback to the recent Mayor-making event on 20 May 2025. The event was deemed a success, though it was suggested that the Team should consider offering more precise instructions for photographers, improving seating arrangements for proposers/seconders, and making printed agendas available at future events.

Updating of Mayoral photographs displayed within the Civic Centre

15. The CWG requested that the Civic Team update the official photographs of past Mayors displayed within the Civic Centre to include recent photographs, potentially within a new frame.

Summary of financial implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

17. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Summary of human resources implications

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

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

Summary of risk assessment

22. There are no risk implications arising from this report.

Background papers

Charter Trustees Standing Orders

Charter Trustee Handbook

Minutes of the CT meeting held on 24 December 2022

Appendices

Nil.