

To: Policy & Resources Committee

17 October 2019

From: Livery Committee

11 September 2019

14. LIVERY COMMITTEE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk, prepared at the request of the Chairman, to inform members about the support services that would be provided to the Committee once the Livery Committee Manager (LCM) left office in October. The report referred to the City's Fundamental Review and its implications for future funding together with a likely review of governance to run in tandem. These two elements of work would likely take several months to complete, and it would be invidious to consider support services for the Livery Committee, including the replacement of the LCM post, until outcomes were known.

In the interim, the City Corporation would revert to the service it provided to the Livery Committee prior to the creation of the LCM post e.g. clerking services, assistance with the City Briefings and the production of the Livery Briefing Newsletter.

The report also stated that given work on the Committee's business plan was ongoing, discussions with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman had taken place to ascertain whether, in the absence of funding, it might be possible to fill the void on a pro bono basis.

The Chairman and Committee members thanked the Livery Committee Manager, Simon Murrells, for his work over the past year.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- If the Committee's website was to succeed, a dedicated web manager/master was essential, although it was noted that this would require a different skill set to that of the LCM post;
- That the possibility of funding from the livery could be explored, although from recent experience with requests for funding for the website, this was highly unlikely to be forthcoming;
- That considering the Fundamental Review, City funding was unlikely;
- The immediate problem was day-to-day management of the website;
- The Livery Committee was closely linked to the City Corporation; and
- There was scope for the Committee to carry out its own review to see what might be achieved with the resources it has.

During further discussion, it was noted that the Committee had commenced a comprehensive programme to strategically review its work and objectives, produce a business plan and enhance its profile, especially when taking into account the pan livery initiative. This included providing new services, such as the website, and other areas of support to the livery which required some form of resource if they were to succeed. Members fully accepted and understood the need for the City's Fundamental Review but felt that it needed to put down a marker with the City Corporation that if its ambitions are to be realised, it would require some element of support, bearing in mind that other than administrative support, it had no budget. It was agreed that the

opportunity should be taken to make a resolution to the Policy & Resources Committee to put on record its position.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The report of the Town Clerk be noted; and
- b) The Policy & Resources Committee, when considering both the Fundamental Review and any review of governance that may be agreed, be requested to kindly consider the following in relation to the Livery Committee:

The Livery Committee fully accepts and understands the need for the City to fundamentally review its resources and how they are applied and readily acknowledges the administrative support given to it by the City Corporation, particularly by the Town Clerk's Department. The support given over the past year by the Livery Committee Manager was especially important as, during that period, the Committee had commenced a comprehensive programme of reform and improvement which included:

- A strategic review of its aims and objectives (which go beyond simply overseeing the arrangements for Common Hall) culminating in the production of a Livery Committee Strategy;
- Work on the production of a business plan, including a review of the constitution and membership of the Committee (a reduction in the number of members has been agreed in principle);
- The creation of a new Livery Committee website (a tender has been accepted for the design & production, mostly funded by several livery companies);
- An enhanced profile with the livery generally, especially in light of the pan livery initiative, to provide support and guidance as required (e.g. a range of briefings and courses and staging a new event for Masters and consorts at the annual Ironbridge weekend).

The Livery Committee is ambitious in its plans to help ensure the livery continues to thrive, with its significance and impact widely understood. However, it is striving to achieve its aims in the absence of a budget to support and underpin them, and it wishes to place on record with the Policy & Resources Committee its current position, at this time. It will continue to do what it can with the limited resources available to it.