

<b>Committee:</b> Policy and Resources - For decision Culture, Heritage and Libraries - For information	<b>Date:</b> 20 March 2014 27 May 2014
<b>Subject:</b> City Corporation support for the 800 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magna Carta	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Public Relations and Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

2015 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta in 1215. The Magna Carta Trust has set up an 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, chaired by Sir Robert Worcester, to coordinate all activities surrounding the anniversary through a mixture of events, exhibitions, commemorative wares, academia, and press and broadcast media.

The City of London Corporation has a number of links with the Magna Carta. Most importantly, the Charter itself sets out (Article 13) the rights of the citizens of London to govern their own affairs. It holds an exemplar copy (i.e. the specified London copy) of the 1297 issue of the Charter. In addition, as a “charter” town or city (those holding an original 13<sup>th</sup> century version of Magna Carta), the Lord Mayor has been invited since its inception in 1956 to be a Trustee of the Magna Carta Trust. This role is currently fulfilled, on behalf of the Lord Mayor by the City Remembrancer.

In 2011 your Committee agreed to provide financial support of £10,000 per annum for four years (2011/12 - 2014/15) to help fund the work of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. As the 2015 anniversary approaches, the City of London Corporation has intensified its work in this area and approval is now sought for a number of additional activities and expenditure as follows: an additional grant of £25,000 towards the increased costs in the final year incurred by the Anniversary Committee; approval for the cost of the use of Great Hall in Guildhall for a fund-raising dinner in June 2014 to be hosted by the Anniversary Committee (an internal recharge not exceeding £12,000); the costs of hosting a lecture in November 2014 by Professor Linda Colley on a Magna Carta theme, followed by a reception at a cost not exceeding £15,000; and the costs of a programme of educational, heritage and visitor-related activities totalling £36,000.

### Recommendation

Your Committee is recommended to agree to provide the following financial support to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta in 2015:

- (1) an additional grant of £25,000 as a contribution towards the increased costs in the final year incurred by the Anniversary Committee;
- (2) approval for the cost of the use of Great Hall in Guildhall for a fund-raising dinner in June 2014 to be hosted by the Anniversary Committee (an internal recharge not

exceeding £12,000);

(3) the costs of hosting a lecture in November 2014 by Professor Linda Colley on a Magna Carta theme, followed by a reception at a cost not exceeding £15,000; and

(4) the costs of a programme of educational, heritage and visitor-related activities totalling £36,000.

This expenditure, which would not exceed £88,000 in total, would be met from your Committee's contingency (£72,000 in 2014/15 and £16,000 in 2015/16) and charged to *City's Cash*.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. In October 1956 the Magna Carta Trust was established as the successor to the Magna Carta Society. Lord Evershed, Master of the Rolls, formally proposed the formation of the Trust with the following objectives:
  - The perpetuation of the principles of Magna Carta;
  - The preservation for reverent public use of sites associated with Magna Carta; and
  - The commemoration triennially, and on such special occasions as shall be determined by the Trust, of the grant of Magna Carta as the source of the constitutional liberties of all English-speaking peoples, and a common bond of peace between them.
2. As part of the Magna Carta Trust's objective to commemorate the grant of the Magna Carta, it established the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee and invited Sir Robert Worcester to chair the Committee. In November 2010, the Committee organised at Runnymede the launch of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta.
3. A number of objectives for the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary were agreed by the Trustees of the Trust in October 2009. These include:
  - To co-ordinate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the sealing of the Magna Carta;
  - To co-ordinate the upgrading of the Magna Carta Memorial on the Runnymede site;
  - To develop a communications strategy to inform the media and all other interests of the Trust's initiatives;

- To consider what shall be the legacy of the 2015 celebrations; and
  - To coordinate the plans and activities of the local communities.
4. The City of London Corporation has a number of close links with the Magna Carta:
- The City Corporation has an exemplar copy (i.e. the specified London copy) of one of the surviving 13<sup>th</sup> century copies of the Magna Carta, which confirmed on 12 October 1297 that the City should retain its ancient liberties and customs (Article 13), including the rights of the citizens of London to govern their own affairs.
  - This copy is currently held by the London Metropolitan Archives in a suitable strong room in Guildhall, but will be able to be displayed regularly in the new Heritage Gallery.
  - As a holder of an original 13<sup>th</sup> century version of Magna Carta the City of London is one of the “charter” towns. The others include Bury St Edmunds, Runnymede, Canterbury, St. Albans, Salisbury, Hereford and Lincoln;
  - The Lord Mayor has been invited since its inception in 1956 to be a Trustee of the Magna Carta Trust. This role is currently fulfilled, on behalf of the City of London Corporation, by the City Remembrancer. The Director of Public Relations is a member of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and chairs its communications sub-committee.
  - As its major contribution to the anniversary and its legacy, the City Corporation’s new Heritage Gallery, including a display for Magna Carta, opens in September 2014.
5. There are a number of activities leading up to and during 2015 which have been agreed, covering a mixture of events, exhibitions, commemorative wares, academia, and broadcast media. Specific planned activities include:
- Magna Carta exhibitions at the British Library, National Archives, Library of Congress in Washington, public libraries and comparable international initiatives; raising understanding of Magna Carta in the school syllabus; a British Council Magna Carta booklet distributed throughout the world; a ‘Magna Carta Prom’ at the Albert Hall and other Magna Carta Concerts worldwide in 2015; and repeal of the Papal Bull of 1215, which was issued by the Pope at the request of King John, who claimed that he was ‘forced’ to sign the Magna Carta and he therefore sought for it to be annulled;
  - Full Government involvement is being arranged. The Lord Chancellor has already taken part in the launch event in November 2010 of the

anniversary and the Minister of State for Justice, the Minister with responsibility for archives, is a member of the Anniversary Committee. The Ministry of Justice is organising a major international Law Summit in February 2015, with a Magna Carta theme. The City Corporation will be playing a significant role in the event. In addition, work has been undertaken with the Department for Education on preparation of suitable information to be provided to schools; and

- Plans for BBC support and participation have been discussed and are now well advanced. There will be a set of BBC history programmes, as well as live and other coverage of anniversary events. Other broadcast media plans are also being prepared.
6. Arrangements are well advanced for Her Majesty The Queen to lead a suitable national and international commemorative event on Monday, 15 June 2015, the actual 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The City Corporation will be able to participate fully in this event.
  7. Further support has been sought from governments overseas. Regular contact has been maintained with the Magna Carta Anniversary group within the American Bar Association, who are facilitating contacts with the US Administration, Congress and the Supreme Court. Similar work has been underway with equivalent groups in other countries, especially those with a common law system, stemming from Magna Carta.
  8. An All-Party Parliamentary Group has been established, chaired by David Ruffley MP, which includes the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Speaker, the Lord Chancellor and others.

## **Proposals**

9. It is estimated that the remaining planning, development and administration costs of the work of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee in the final period before June 2015 will amount to approximately £300,000. This will enable the Committee to make the final arrangements to achieve the full array of aspirations and activities that have been agreed in principle by the Trust.
10. Alex King, Deputy Leader of Kent County Council, has been appointed as 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Treasurer with administrative support for this work provided by Kent County Council. HSBC is providing banking facilities pro bono.
11. Sponsorship of £250,000 over five years (£50,000) was agreed by HCL Axon, an IT consultancy that helps businesses adapt new IT software programmes, such as SAP, Oracle, Microsoft Business, into their individual business system. This sponsorship has been used to support the PR and marketing efforts of the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee. In 2011 your Committee agreed to provide financial support of £10,000 per annum for four years (2011/12 - 2014/15) to help fund the work of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. In addition, Lincoln,

St. Albans, Canterbury and the Magna Carta Trust have together contributed £35,000 per annum, with additional ad hoc private donations, so far, to the value of £4,000.

12. There remains a need to secure the additional core funding to support the administration costs in the final year of planning and running the anniversary. It is therefore proposed that the City of London Corporation provides assistance with this through an additional one-off contribution of £25,000 to the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.
13. In addition, in order to support the plans of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to hold a suitable fund-raising event in June 2014, it is also proposed to agree to their request to provide at no charge the use of the Great Hall at Guildhall for this event. This entails an internal recharge of £12,000. The specific approval of the use of Guildhall will be a matter for your Hospitality Working Party.
14. It is also proposed that, as a contribution towards a wider programme being planned by a number of institutions across London and more widely, the City Corporation hosts a Lecture, followed by a Reception, on the subject of the meaning across the centuries, up to the present, of the Magna Carta, with a special emphasis on London. Professor Linda Colley of Princeton University has already indicated that she would be willing to deliver this Lecture. The costs are expected not to exceed £15,000 (including an internal recharge for the use of Guildhall facilities, hospitality, Prof Colley's travel costs and a fee of £1,000).
15. Finally, it is also proposed that the costs of a programme of educational, heritage and visitor-related activities totalling £36,000 be funded. This community programme has been planned to cover the following areas:
  - The City and Magna Carta – its central role in the creation of the 1215 charter and the politics of the period;
  - The wider issues of rights and responsibilities, highlighted in Magna Carta in 1215, and their subsequent history and influence across the world ;
  - Magna Carta as a physical document – its parchment, ink and seal; this will include art and craft inspired sessions that will include calligraphy and palaeography, and will also cover the issue of conservation (specifically how the City's Magna Carta has been so well maintained);
  - Magna Carta and London – its link to an understanding of life in Plantagenet London; and
16. The Visitor Development Team (VDT) in the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department (CHL) has been working with the national Magna Carta Tourism

Sub Committee to develop a marketing campaign that will help promote a trail through England's charter towns (including the City). It is proposed that funding of £26,000 be provided to underpin the programming (£11,000) and marketing (£15,000) elements of the City Corporation's contribution, the marketing element being matched by local risk budgets in the VDT. London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has also been developing programmes that would enhance and deepen an understanding of the City's role in relation to Magna Carta, working closely with national and local partners to develop this work across London. Additional funding of £10,000 for the LMA is also requested to cover extra staffing costs to deliver specific activities and the production of support materials, as well as to embed activities into LMA's ongoing work, particularly its formal education programme. Further information on these activities is available in the attached appendix.

17. A number of additional events and activities are also being planned for the anniversary, for which it is expected that the City Corporation will be requested to provide financial or other support. The details of these proposals are being formulated over the coming weeks and a further report will be submitted to your Committee in due course.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

18. There is no possibility of meeting the proposed financial support from existing local risk resources, because this proposal entails a substantial one-off item of expenditure for which no provision has been made in the Public Relations or other local risk budgets. It is therefore proposed that the required total funding of £88,000 is drawn from your Committee's contingency (£72,000 in 2014/15 and £16,000 in 2015/16) and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's contingency for 2014/15 amounts to £351,000. This is prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda. Substantial funds currently remain in the contingency for 2015/16.

### **Conclusion**

19. It is appropriate for the City of London Corporation to provide financial support to the work of the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee given the high profile nature of the anniversary, the support also being given to the work of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee by the Government, and the various roles of other MPs, Peers and others in the planned events. Also, given the City's close links with the Magna Carta, it is appropriate that the City Corporation should provide financial support for suitable events and activities to mark the Anniversary.
20. The Anniversary also provides the City of London Corporation with the opportunity to support a key historical event for both the City and the United Kingdom, as well as having the opportunity to be associated publicly and

directly, with the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the wide range of activities planned both in the UK and abroad in 2014-2015 to mark the anniversary.

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## Appendix

The key elements of the Magna Carta programme for the City is described below. The details of participation for Open Spaces (City Gardens), Gresham College and the Museum of London have not yet been fully developed and it is hoped that events and activities for each will join the list below in due course:

- **September 2014:** the **City of London Heritage Gallery** is opened at Guildhall with Magna Carta on display. A media reception will be held to help launch the Gallery with the City's Magna Carta programme being revealed as part of the event.
- **November 2014:** the **Lord Mayor's Show** celebrates its own 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Mayoral Charter replaces the Magna Carta in the Heritage Gallery; the **Magna Carta summer celebrations are promoted in show programmes** and the Magna Carta becomes a theme of the Show with a **specially-composed anthem** to be played at the Royal Courts of Justice and free **Magna Carta guided walks** previewed ahead of summer (see below). The walk will explain the links between the Mayoral Charter and Magna Carta.
- **November 2014-September 2015:** from the Lord Mayor's Show to their finale **open weekend** in September (which will coincide with Open House London), **Temple Church** have a wide and varied programme of activity planned. For visitors, this includes a three-choir concert celebrating the bringing together of the four 2015 Magna Cartas at the British Library in February 2015, performances of plays relating to the period and the weekend itself which will focus on the role **Temple Church, Middle and Inner Temple** played in the Magna Carta story.
- **1 June 2015:** the City's Magna Carta programme begins; from this date until 27 September, the City Guides will offer **free guided walks** on the theme of Magna Carta, running between Temple Church and the Heritage Gallery (which will display our 1297 Magna Carta again for the full period of the walks programme) – one walk a day.
- **June 2015 to January 2016:** Guildhall Art Gallery hosts a new exhibition **Black British Art in Action: 1960-1990** exploring 'creation for liberation', struggles against discrimination and the establishment of rights – themes that reflect those of the Magna Carta anniversary celebrations. This exhibition and the display of Magna Carta in the Heritage Gallery will offer a highly suitable finish to the walk described above. The exhibition is subject to the outcome of an HLF grant application (the results of which will be known on 12 March 2014)
- **12 to 27 June: Spitalfields Music Festival** will seek to explore the theme '**debate and the rule of law**' as they plan their programme for 2015. A collaboration with Bishopsgate Institute is likely for 15 June itself. This will probably be the focus of a longer-running talks and/or debates series.
- **June/July (dates tbc):** the **City of London Festival** will likely host a public debate in Mansion House under the Magna Carta window (Egyptian Hall) that will see high-profile thinkers and commentators develop a Magna Carta for



today. The idea is not yet fully developed and will be subject to a number of variables including funding.

- June to August 2015: **Guildhall Library** host a **Magna Carta exhibition** with selected items from their collections, complementing the showing of Magna Carta in the Heritage Gallery and helping to establish the Guildhall as one of the focal points of the anniversary. Building on the success of the *Guildhall Chronicles* for English Tourism Week in 2014, a short programme of free lunchtime talks on themes of liberty and law are also likely to take place.
- **9 to 20 July: the Huguenots of Spitalfields Festival** (established in 2013) will deliver its usual programme celebrating the culture and crafts of the Huguenot settlers, but with one or more events relating to the theme of **religious liberty** (with especial reference to the Edict of Nantes which allowed the Huguenots to worship freely).