

<b>Committee:</b> Policy and Resources Culture, Heritage and Libraries	<b>Date(s):</b> 2 October 2014 27 October 2014
<b>Subject:</b> <b>City Corporation Support for the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Public Relations Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries	<b>For decision</b> (P&R) <b>For information</b> (C,H&L)

### 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 year for four years (2011/12 - 2014/15) to help fund the work of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. In March 2014, your Committee agreed to provide further support in the form of additional central support costs (£25,000) and three particular projects (£63,000).

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: financial support for the cost of including the London copy of Magna Carta in the 2014 Lord Mayor’s Show (£6,000); a one-third share of the cost of creating a new permanent Magna Carta exhibition in the Temple Church (£15,000); a half share of the cost of an event in Temple Church, a reception in

Middle Temple Hall and a dinner in Inner Temple Hall, co-hosted by the City Corporation, on 14 May 2015 to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King John's sealing of the London Charter (£12,000); a reception in Mansion House to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the convening in London of the Barons in May 1215, prior to the sealing of Magna Carta (£10,000); and a contribution towards the cost of the prime national and international event to mark the anniversary, in the presence of HM The Queen, at Runnymede on 15 June 2015 (£85,000).

### **Recommendation**

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

1. The inclusion in the 2014 Lord Mayor's Show, in a suitably safe and appropriate manner, of the London copy of Magna Carta, at a cost not exceeding £6,000;
2. A one-third share of the cost of creating a new permanent Magna Carta exhibition in the Temple Church, £15,000;
3. A half share of the cost of an event in Temple Church, a reception in Middle Temple Hall and a dinner in Inner Temple Hall, co-hosted by the City Corporation, on 14 May 2015 to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King John's sealing of the London Charter, £12,000;
4. A reception in Mansion House to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the convening in London of the barons in May 1215, prior to the sealing of Magna Carta, not exceeding £10,000; and
5. A contribution of £85,000 towards the cost of the prime national and international event to mark the anniversary, in the presence of HM The Queen, at Runnymede on 15 June 2015.

This expenditure, which would not exceed £128,000 in total, would be met from your Committee's contingency (£21,000 in 2014/15 and £107,000 in 2015/16) and be 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. The Trust has 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 was held until recently by the London Metropolitan Archives in a suitable strong room in Guildhall, but from 12 September it is now 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, opened on 12 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;
    - 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 for 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.
  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, which includes the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Speaker, the Lord Chancellor and others.

## Proposals

9. Your Committee is asked to agree the following proposed activities, as part of the overall anniversary programme.

### Lord Mayor's Show 2014

10. It is proposed by the Pageantmaster, following discussions with SABTAC, as well as the Remembrancer and the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries, to make suitable arrangements for the inclusion of the London copy of the 1297 Magna Carta in the Lord Mayor's Show. This will entail placing the copy in a specially made frame and airtight box, which in turn will be placed in the centre of one of the coaches from the Royal Mews, considered suitable for the purpose, and located in the Procession immediately before the Lord Mayor's Coach.
11. Following discussions with the Pageantmaster, the City Police and the military, it has been confirmed that satisfactory security for the document can be provided: the security for the Lord Mayor's Coach, both from the military and the Police, will also be able to cover this additional coach and will be at a sufficient level for the purpose. These arrangements can be made at a cost not exceeding £6,000, including the cost of hiring the coach and creating the special container for the document.

### Exhibition at Temple Church

12. In November 2014, Temple Church is installing a new long-term Magna Carta Exhibition in the Round Church. The Round Church was built in 1162 and the Temple itself was King John's headquarters in London, 1214-5. At the Temple, he sealed the charters for the freedom of cathedral elections (21 Nov. 1214 and again, 15 Jan. 1215) and the London Charter guaranteeing free Mayoral elections in the City of London (9 May 1215). The King and barons also met at the Temple, 6-15 Jan. 1215, for the negotiations at which the barons demanded for the first time the King's declaration of fealty to a charter. Two key figures in the creation of Magna Carta are buried in the Round Church and their effigies, though damaged in the Blitz, are still there.

13. Temple Church proposes to create a permanent display setting out both the history of Magna Carta itself and the role it played in subsequent centuries, especially its many close links with both the Temple Church and the Inner and Middle Temples, and the legal profession more generally. The themes around the sealing of the London Charter and its implications, and the role of the rule of law as it developed from Magna Carta in the growth of London as an international commercial centre will be particularly pertinent for the City Corporation. The total cost of creating this new exhibition will be £45,000 and the Temple Church has requested support from the City Corporation of one third, £15,000. The remaining two-thirds of the cost is intended to be met from the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary's national funding for projects of this kind and from the Temple Church's own funds.

#### Events at Temple Church, Inner Temple Hall and Middle Temple Hall, May 2015

14. On 9 May 1215, in the Round Church at the Temple, in the presence of the City's Lord Mayor and Aldermen, King John sealed the London Charter, which provided crucially for the City of London freely to choose its own Lord Mayor, subject to the person chosen swearing an oath of loyalty to the Crown. The process of showing the newly chosen Lord Mayor to the people of London and travelling by river to Westminster (subsequently by road to the Royal Courts of Justice) to swear the oath in front of the Judges created the Lord Mayor's Show from 1215 onwards.
15. To mark this anniversary, Temple Church, the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple have proposed that they and the City of London Corporation co-host events at the Church, Inner Temple Hall and Middle Temple Hall on Thursday, 14 May 2015. In the Church, it is proposed to conduct a suitable short service, with the sermon to be delivered by the Bishop of London. This will be followed by a reception in Middle Temple Hall. There would then subsequently be a dinner in Inner Temple Hall, at which the Lord Mayor would be part of the hosting party, and be asked to deliver a speech. Representatives of the City Corporation would be invited to the events, together with senior representatives of the Inner and Middle Temples and others with appropriate connections to the main themes of the occasion. The total cost of this set of events will not exceed £24,000, and Temple Church, the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple have requested that the City Corporation contribute half of this amount, namely £12,000.

## Reception at the Mansion House

16. In May 1215, the barons who eventually obliged King John to seal the Magna Carta, met in the City of London with the Lord Mayor. The voluntary organisation of representatives of the towns and villages from which the barons came, which has been created to help mark the Magna Carta anniversary, has requested that the Lord Mayor host a suitable event in London to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this gathering. It is proposed that a reception is hosted by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House with both representatives from the 24 towns and villages outside London, together with representatives from other places with an historic link to Magna Carta, as well as others currently involved in the anniversary activities. The cost of this event will not exceed £10,000.

## Event to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, Runnymede, Monday 15 June 2015

17. The principal national and international event to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta is to take place on the morning of Monday, 15 June 2105 on the meadow at Runnymede, in the presence of HM The Queen. The details of the overall event are still being planned, but it will involve a mixture of formal processions and other ceremonial and speeches, and music, choral singing and other suitable entertainment. The event is being managed by a project board led by the National Trust, who own most of the land involved, and Surrey County Council. Substantial temporary structures will need to be built for the event which, together with security and other costs, means that whole event is expected to cost up to £500,000. The National Trust and Surrey County Council are each contributing £100,000, while other sponsors are expected to contribute a further £200,000. The City Corporation has been asked to make a contribution and it is proposed that this be approved and that it should amount to £85,000.

18. In return for this support, the Lord Mayor will have a suitable role in the ceremonial elements of the event, all Members of the Court of Common Council will be invited to attend, all the publicity materials for the event will give appropriate due recognition to the support of the City of London Corporation, and the Director of Public Relations (as the City Corporation's representative on the main 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee) will be invited to be a member of the project board planning the event.

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

19. 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 £128,000 is drawn from your Committee's contingency (£20,000 in 2014/15 and £107,000 in 2015/16) and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's contingency for 2014/15 amounts to £141,000. 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**

20. It is appropriate, given the City's close links with the Magna Carta, for the City of London Corporation to support suitable events and activities to mark its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The anniversary provides the City of London Corporation with the opportunity to support a key historical event both for 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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