

Report – Hospitality Working Party

Report of Urgent Action Taken: State Dinner in Honour of His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain

To be presented on Thursday, 25th May 2017

To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled.

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN

Members will recall that, as part of a State Visit, a State Banquet in honour of His Majesty the King of Spain, Felipe VI, was originally scheduled to take place at Guildhall on 7 June 2017. The State Visit was subsequently postponed, because of the UK General Election, to July 2017. Urgent approval for a State Banquet to take place on 13 July 2017 was required in order to enable the necessary arrangements to be made in good time and for caterers to be appointed. Owing to the City Ward elections which took place on 23 March 2017 and the pause in meetings until after the first meeting of the Court of Common Council on 27 April, it was not possible for this decision to be considered through the normal committee process.

Approval was consequently obtained in accordance with Standing Order No.19 for an invitation to be extended to His Majesty the King of Spain, Felipe VI, to honour the City of London Corporation by accepting an Address of Welcome and for him to be further asked to accept an invitation to attend a Banquet on 13 July 2017 to be held in his honour in Guildhall.

It was also agreed that it should be referred to a Ward Reception Committee, to be appointed in accordance with the previously approved rota, to make the necessary arrangements; the cost to be met from City's Cash and within the approved cost parameters.

RECOMMENDATION

We **recommend** that the urgent action taken be noted.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 28th day of March 2017.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Wendy Mead, OBE
Chief Commoner and Chairman, Hospitality Working Party