

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee	30/05/2017
Subject: London Metropolitan Archives: production of iconic archives	Public
Report of: Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director	For Decision
Report author: Director of London Metropolitan Archives	

Summary

This report summarises the present position regarding the production of the City's iconic archives and proposes the codification of current practice.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to approve the report and in particular the recommendation at paragraph 4 that the production of the City's archival treasures, particularly Magna Carta, is restricted primarily to high profile City led events such as state banquets and VIP visits to Guildhall on core City business.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London has a long tradition not only of providing good stewardship for its archives over many centuries but also of using its iconic documents selectively to support its current working priorities. Recent examples include the display of the Great Parchment Book for the state banquet in honour of the President of Ireland in 2014, the Hooke Dairy for the Honorary Freedom given to Stephen Hawking and Magna Carta for the Honorary Freedom given to Aung San Suu Kyi, both in 2017.
2. In 2014 the City also opened the Heritage Gallery within the Guildhall Art Gallery to be able to display its most precious documents on a rotating programme for the public and for the visit of dignitaries to Guildhall on City business, such as the attendance of former President Clinton at the Inclusive Capitalism conference in 2015. Researchers at LMA normally have access to this material via digitised copies.

Current Position

3. The display of all archives but particularly the most rare and precious ones, such as Magna Carta, has to be balanced against the need to protect them from damage and to ensure that they continue to be able to be viewed for years,

indeed centuries, to come. For this reason, the production of such documents needs to be closely controlled and monitored.

4. Practice on such production has evolved in recent years and requests have increased to the point where officers would value the guidance of Committee. No major change to the current position is envisaged but it is proposed that the production of the City's archival treasures, particularly Magna Carta is restricted primarily to high profile City led events such as state banquets and VIP visits to Guildhall on core City business. They will continue to be displayed in the Heritage Gallery on a rotating basis.

Implications

5. The Remembrancer's Department has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

6. The proposal in this report aligns with the City of London Corporate Plan 2015-19. The proposal supports the strategic aim *to provide valued services, such as education, employment, culture and leisure to London and the nation* as well as Key Policy Priority 5 *increasing the outreach and impact of the City's cultural, heritage and leisure contribution to the life of London and the nation*.

Conclusion

7. The proposal balances the need to provide effective stewardship for the City's archival collections alongside the clear benefits of supporting City business priorities through the display of relevant documents.

Appendices

None

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