

Committee:	Date:
Policy and Resources Committee	10 December 2020
Subject: Livery Committee: Consultation on Composition	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Greg Moore	

Summary

The Livery Committee is a committee established by and answerable to Common Hall, which is intended to improve communications between Livery Companies, as well between the Livery and the City Corporation. It is comprised of a mixture of Livery Clerks and Liverymen, the latter of which includes a number of Common Councillors and Aldermen. The Court of Common Council is entitled to nominate up to six Common Councillors to serve on the Committee.

In recent times it has undertaken a review of its composition, strategy, and activities, alongside the creation of a new website to assist it in its communications activity. As part of this process it has determined that it would be desirable to reduce the current size of the Committee, from 20 to 15 Members. One of the implications of this change is that the number of Common Council places on the Committee would reduce from six to four.

Prior to presenting any proposed changes to Common Hall for consideration, the Livery Committee is seeking the views of the various nominating bodies as to these proposed changes. The views of the Policy and Resources Committee, on behalf of the Court of Common Council, are sought to this end. The General Purposes Committee of Aldermen has also been approached, on behalf of the Court of Aldermen, for its views.

Recommendation

Members are invited to consider the endorsement of the proposed reduction to the number of Common Councillors serving on the Livery Committee.

Main Report

Background

1. The Livery Committee is a committee of Common Hall, rather than of the Common Council or the Court of Aldermen. It acts on behalf of the Livery, through Common Hall and the various bodies that nominate to it.
2. The forerunner of the present Livery Committee began in 1864 and was originally established “to consider the best means and take such measures as they deem advisable for securing the Guildhall from the intrusion of strangers at the meetings in Common Hall”. Over time, the Committee was called upon to widen its activities, with its terms of reference amended in 1942 to include authority “to consider any matters affecting the interests of the general body of the Livery and to report recommendations at the ensuing Common Hall.”
3. A further development took place in 1981, with the establishment of the Livery Consultative Committee. This was created as a means of improving communications between the Corporation and the Livery, increasing the involvement of Liverymen in City affairs, and acting as a forum for discussion. It was planned that this new initiative should open the way for Clerks and the modern Liveries to influence future developments in all sorts of practical spheres, by achieving a fuller understanding of the current problems confronting the Corporation and the Companies.
4. The Livery Committee’s current constitution and terms of reference were approved by Common Hall in June 2009 and combine the activities of the Livery Consultative Committee and the old Livery Committee into the new Livery Committee. It now has responsibility for improving communications between the Livery Companies, as well to improve and facilitate greater communication between the Livery and the City Corporation.
5. The Court of Common Council is one of five bodies which currently enjoys nomination rights in respect of the Livery Committee, with the ability to propose the appointment of up to six Common Councillors at Common Hall.
6. In recent times, the Committee has given consideration to its current remit from Common Hall, including the creation of a new strategy and reviewing the suitability of its composition in aiding its delivery of its remit.

Consideration

7. In considering its composition, the Livery Committee has determined that some reduction in its number would be desirable and is minded to put forward proposals to Common Hall to this end.
8. However, as part of the process, it wishes to seek the views of all nominating bodies and their endorsement to the proposed approach.
9. The composition of the Livery Committee is currently :-

- two liverymen who are Aldermen, nominated by the Court of Aldermen
 - **six liverymen who are Common Councilmen, nominated by the Court of Common Council**
 - six liverymen who are not Aldermen, Common Councilmen or Clerks, nominated by the livery companies; one through the Clerks of the Great Twelve, one through the Clerks Association and four through the Fellowship of Clerks
 - six livery company Clerks, nominated by the three Clerks associations; two by each association or as mutually agreed between them
 - up to four co-optees.
10. The six representatives of the Court of Common Council are nominated as and when terms arise at the annual (April) Court meeting, in the same way as appointments to the Court's own committees are managed.
11. The current representatives of the Court on the Committee are:
- Sheriff Christopher Hayward
 - Shravan Joshi
 - Judith Pleasance
 - Deputy Richard Regan
 - Ian Seaton
 - Deputy Philip Woodhouse
12. The Livery Committee is proposing that its composition be altered, to become:-
- two liverymen who are Aldermen, nominated by the Court of Aldermen
 - **four liverymen who are Common Councilmen, nominated by the Court of Common Council**
 - four liverymen who are not Aldermen, Common Councilmen or Clerks, nominated by the livery companies; one through the Clerks of the Great Twelve, one through the Clerks' Association, and two through the Fellowship of Clerks
 - five livery company Clerks, nominated by the three Clerks' associations; one through the Clerks of the Great Twelve, one through the Clerks' Association and three through the Fellowship of Clerks or as mutually agreed between them
 - together with up to four co-optees, who should be liverymen.
13. This constitutes a reduction of overall size from 20 to 15, with a majority of liverymen but a large contingent of Livery Company Clerks also retained. The

Court of Common Council would see its representation reduce from six to four, as a consequence.

14. Appointments to the Committee are currently made for three-year terms, eligible for renewal once (i.e. a maximum of six years' service), and it is not proposed to change this arrangement.
15. Two Members' second terms of office are due to expire in June 2021. In the normal course of events, the Court would be asked to appoint successors at its April meeting. However, in view of the Livery Committee's intention to seek changes at Common Hall in June, it is recommended that these appointments be deferred until the decision of Common Hall is known. Should the changes be rejected, then the Court can make appointments at its July meeting; should the reduction in membership be approved, then the reduction in Common Council membership will have been achieved through natural wastage.

Conclusion

16. Members' views on the proposed amendments to the Livery Committee are now sought.
17. It is intended that any changes to the Committee's composition, together with its revised objectives, key tasks, and revised constitution, be presented to Common Hall in June of 2021.

Appendices

- Letter from the Chair of the Livery Committee (with accompanying documentation).