

Committees:	Dated:
Corporate Asset Sub Committee – For decision	19 July 2021
Finance Committee – For Information	20 July 2021
Subject: Guildhall Complex Flagpole Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,9,10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y
If so, how much?	£5k for initial feasibility survey to establish full scope and cost.
What is the source of Funding?	City Surveyor’s Guildhall local risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	Y
Report of: The City Surveyor and Remembrancer	For Decision
Report author: Dorian Price	

Summary

During discussion at the April Hospitality Working Party, Members discussed a flag-raising ceremony in September 2021 for Emergency Services Day, noting that Guildhall Yard has only one flagpole and will already have the Pride Flag flying. Members were agreed that the issue of flagpoles at Guildhall needed to be reviewed, with a view to increasing the number, and also indicated that it was possible that funding for this might be available through Finance Committee’s contingency.

Officers have reviewed and provided options and propose that in order to expedite this project, an architect and structural engineer are appointed (estimated cost £5k) to undertake a feasibility survey of the options to ensure wind loading and flagpole fixings are suitable, to establish a cost of installation and to commence consent applications. Officers then propose to report back to Members once the proposal is fully developed with costs, and seek Members preferred option.

This report only covers the proposed location and installation of a flagpole/s. Any decisions about what flags are flown is not part of this report.

Recommendations

All Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Approve that a more detailed feasibility survey will be undertaken at an estimated cost of £5k to be met from the City Surveyor’s Guildhall local risk budget to clarify options and identify the most suitable location, to ensure wind

loading and flagpole fixings are suitable, to commence pre-planning application discussions and to determine the final cost of all options.

- Note that officers will then report back to Members once the proposal is fully developed with costs, and seek Members preferred option.

Finance Committee Members are asked to:

- Note that once full costs are established, a request will be made to Finance Committee, seeking funding for this project and whether this is available through your committee's Contingency.

Main Report

Background

1. Flags are a very British way of expressing joy and pride and at Guildhall, flags have been flown to support a wide range of national, sub-national, community and international events.

Current Position

2. There are currently 4 flagpoles at Guildhall complex:
 - i. 2 x Projecting Flagpoles - projecting from the side of the North Wing entrance.
 - ii. 1 x Projecting Flagpole - projecting from the side of the Livery Hall entrance on Basinghall Street.
 - iii. 1 x Vertical Flagpole – located in the centre on the Dance Porch roof, overlooking Guildhall Yard.
3. A flag flying ceremony is due to take place in Guildhall Yard in September 2021 for Emergency Services Day at a time when the flagpole overlooking the Yard will already have the Pride Flag flying.
4. Current permissions allow one flag flying on a vertical flagpole on the roof of a building and one flag within the grounds or gardens of the building without consent (subject to standard restrictions). However, planning and Listed Building consent will be required to have a further flag/s on a flagpole.

Options

All options are subject to a site survey and perhaps due to current Covid times, the companies approached have been slow to respond and have also requested substantial and detailed information before they are willing to visit Guildhall. However, officers have also discussed options with Julian Harrap Architects LLP, who are currently CoL architects for the St Lawrence Jewry Project and who have experience of flagpole installation on historic buildings.

- Option 1 -- 2 x Vertical Flagpoles situated on either side of the current centre flagpole on the Dance Porch roof. This may raise issues given the listed status of the building.
- Option 2 – 1 or 2 x Vertical Flagpoles located around the edge of the pond at West Wing. This option would not be available until the completion of the St Lawrence Jewry Church refurbishment project circa July/August 2022.

- Option 3 – 1 or 2 Ground Mounted Flagpoles in Guildhall Yard – May have an effect on vehicle access, depending on location i.e. close to Dance Porch. When windy, cable and flapping hardware clanging against the pole may be annoying for neighbours e.g. the Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry.

Proposals

5. Officers propose to explore each option and then report back to Members once the proposal is fully developed with costs, and seek Members preferred option.
6. Officers further propose that Julian Harrap Architects LLP and a structural engineer undertake a feasibility survey of the options to ensure wind loading and flagpole fixings are suitable, to establish a cost of installation and to prepare consent applications.
7. The cost of the feasibility survey, estimated at £5k, will be funded from City Surveyor's Guildhall Complex Local Risk Budget.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. With the installation of 1 or 2 extra flagpoles, the City could fly multiple flags, when the need arises, to support a wide range of national, sub-national, community and international events whose foreign delegations we wish to recognise.
9. The proposals align with the Corporate Plan outcomes.

Conclusion

10. Members are asked to approve that a more detailed feasibility survey will be undertaken at an estimated cost of £5k to be met from the City Surveyor's Guildhall local risk budget to progress options to undertake a feasibility survey of the options to ensure wind loading and flagpole fixings are suitable, to establish a cost of installation and to prepare consent applications.
11. Officers will then report back to Members once the proposal is fully developed with costs, and seek Members preferred option.
12. This report only covers the location and installation of a flagpole/s. Any decisions about what flags are flown is not part of this report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – None

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