

Committee	Date:
Gresham (City Side) Committee	29 October 2021
Subject: Report of Action Taken	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Joseph Anstee, Committee and Members' Services	

Summary

This report provides details of a decision taken under urgency since your last meeting, concerning the allocation of funds towards the purchase of flags for use at the Royal Exchange.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the action taken.

Main Report

Background

ROYAL EXCHANGE FLAG COMMISSIONING (JOINT GRAND GRESHAM COMMITTEE – FLAG WORKING PARTY OUTCOMES)

1. At the meeting of the Joint Grand Gresham Committee (JGGC) on 26 February 2021, the Committee was advised that the Royal Exchange's office leaseholder, *Resolution*, had agreed that a Gresham flag could be raised in periodical rotation with the Union Flag and Royal Exchange flag. The JGGC was, therefore, asked to give its views on a suitable design.
2. A Working Party was subsequently established by the JGGC in order to give the matter greater focus and determine suitable designs on its behalf. For the City Side, Simon Duckworth and Deputy Dr Giles Shilson were appointed to serve.
3. The Working Party met accordingly and identified two suitable designs. The first features representative elements of all three of Sir Thomas Gresham's, the City Corporation's, and the Worshipful Company of Mercers' coats of arms (and is, itself, a variant of a logo often used by the College), whilst the second is a simplified representation of Gresham's coat of arms alone. It was intended that both flags be purchased with the option to use them in rotation.
4. The Clerk to the Mercers' Company, as the Clerk to the JGGC, had approached flag providers to obtain quotations for the designs, as instructed. A quotation was received from a reputable flag provider and the total costs for the two five-yard flags with selected designs (together with delivery, rope and toggle, etc.) amounted to £2,568.61. As was customary for JGGC expenditure,

it was proposed that said costs be borne in equal proportion by the two Sides (i.e. a 50/50 split), resulting in a cost of £1,284.31 to the Corporation.

5. The Gresham Committee had a dedicated Contingency Fund of £10,000 per annum set aside to meet the costs of ad hoc items such as this. The Fund had not yet been accessed in the financial year and so the full £10,000 balance was available to the Committee.
6. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Gresham (City Side) Committee, subsequently approved the allocation of £1284.31 from the Committee's Contingency Fund for the purposes of purchasing (jointly with the Worshipful Company of Mercers) two flags.
7. The JGGC having instructed the Working Party to take action on its behalf, suitable flag designs and quotations were identified. The approval of the Gresham Committee (City Side) was required for the allocation of funds from the City Side and, as the Committee does not meet again until November, it was considered appropriate to invoke urgency procedures so as to avoid an unnecessary four-month delay in action being taken and the matter being progressed.

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