

Committee(s): Court of Aldermen	Dated: 15 May 2023
Subject: Report of Action Taken: Appointment of Secondary and Applications for Freedom of the City (in the companies named)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Gemma Stokley, Principal Governance and Member Services Manager	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Court of Aldermen, in accordance with Standing Order No. 46 (Court of Aldermen).

Recommendation:- That Members note the decision taken in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Order No.46 to approve a) the Appointment of the Secondary and b) applications for Freedom of the City (in the companies named).

Main Report

Appointment of Secondary

Background and reason for urgency:

1. The post of Secondary has been vacant since 2017 when the previous postholder left the City Corporation's employment. At the request of the Chairman, the Remembrancer raised the concept of re-engaging the position at the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen meeting on 7 February 2023. He added at the time that this would potentially require an alteration to an Act of Common Council and that he was discussing the matter further with the Recorder of London. He reported that appointment to this position was within the remit of the Court of Aldermen and that he would look to report back further on this to this Committee in due course.
2. The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee confirmed that discussions on the position had been pursued with past Sheriff Fiona Adler who the Recorder had also agreed would be an appropriate appointee. At the time, the

Aldermen stated that they would be extremely supportive of having this role reinstated.

3. Following the discussion and supportive steer offered at the General Purposes Committee, the Chairman asked that the Remembrancer seek the opinion of the law officers on the current status of the post of Secondary.. In short, the opinion sets out that the post of Secondary is now a sinecure - an honorary position devoid of all but notional duties. The post is in the appointment of the Court of Aldermen.
4. This being the case, the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen was keen to confirm the appointment of Ms Fiona Adler as Secondary on an honorary basis with immediate effect. The City of London Sheriffs' Society were hosting their AGM and lunch on 13th April 2023. As part of the agenda here, they formally elect a new Chairman of the Society. It was also considered opportune to be able to announce the appointment of a Secondary on this same occasion as opposed to awaiting the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee and Court of Aldermen to be held on 15th May to confirm this.
5. The Chairman was not of the view that a special meeting was necessary to discuss the proposal given the strong support already voiced for it at the February General Purposes Committee meeting. He did, however, seek the views of all Aldermen via email as to this proposal ahead of its formal consideration under urgency. Responses received were all supportive with some suggestion that the arrangement should be reviewed after one year to ascertain how it was working and a call for the Remembrancer to present a new Job Description of sorts for the honorary position of Secondary in due course.

Action Taken:

6. In accordance with Standing Order no.46, on 6th April 2023 following consultation with Alderman Sir William Russell (as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen) and the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Nicholas Lyons the Town Clerk agreed that: -

“The General Purposes Committee of Aldermen recommend to the Court of Aldermen that Fiona Adler be appointed as Secondary on an honorary basis with immediate effect with the position, as re-engaged, to be reviewed by the General Purposes Committee by no later than May 2024.

In turn, the Court of Aldermen, in noting the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, approved the appointment of Fiona Adler as Secondary on an honorary basis with immediate effect”.

Applications for Freedom of the City (in the companies named)

Background and reason for urgency:

7. In light of the decision earlier this year to shift the May 2023 meeting of the Court of Aldermen originally scheduled for 2nd May 2022, to 15th May 2023, on account of the two Bank Holiday periods at the beginning of the month, a small number of applications for Freedom of the City in the Companies named required approval by the Court of Aldermen under urgency.
8. As arrangements for admission/ 'clothing' ceremonies had already been made by some Livery companies, based on the Court of Aldermen dates originally communicated to them by the Chamberlain's Court in October 2022, a deferment of consideration of the applications could result in significant inconvenience to both the applicants and their respective companies and ultimately generate a backlog of freedom application ceremonies which would have to be managed at a later date. Thus, approval of the list of applications was sought in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Orders (46).
9. The list of three applications for Freedom of the City (in the Companies named) that required approval ahead of the 15th May Court of Aldermen meeting is as set out below:

Ref	Name	Livery	Adm Details	Court Date
2022548A	KATHERINE FAITH-BASTEA DIMANDESCU	The Worshipful Company of Stationer...	2023-05-05 12:00	2023-05-02
20221764A	RICHARD NICHOLAS JAMES GRAHAM	The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries	2023-05-05 10:30	2023-05-02
2023297A	THOMAS EDWIN HULME	The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers	2023-05-11 14:00	2023-05-02

Action taken:

10. In accordance with Standing Order no.46, on 24 April 2023 the Lord Mayor (on behalf of the Court of Aldermen) was consulted by the Town Clerk about the list of applications for Freedom of the City (in the companies named). Thereafter, on 26 April 2023, approval was granted by the Town Clerk for the above list of three applications for Freedom of the City (in the Companies named) and for the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court to be instructed accordingly so that their admission ceremonies may take place as planned on 5th and 11th May respectively..

Conclusion:

11. Members are asked to note the decisions taken in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Order No.46 to appoint a Secondary and to approve applications for Freedom of the City (in the companies named).

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