

Report – Civic Affairs Sub-Committee

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Applications for Hospitality

To be presented on Thursday, 22nd June 2023

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN

1. We hereby report action taken under urgency procedures, in accordance with Standing Order No. 19, in approving the grant of hospitality associated with a lecture, on Thursday 13th July 2023, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of William Shakespeare's First Folio.
2. The First Folio is the first published collection of William Shakespeare's works, published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. There were originally 750 copies of the book published and just over 200 remain known today. The City Corporation's copy is held by Guildhall Library, very near to the site of its original publication at Jaggard's Print House and opposite St Mary Aldermanbury Garden, the burial site of Heminge and Condell (who edited the text and supervised the printing) and site of a memorial to the Folio and a bust of Shakespeare.
3. To mark the anniversary of the publication of William Shakespeare's First Folio, your Civic Affairs Sub-Committee was minded that City Corporation should host a lecture with a question-and-answer session, followed by a reception. Following discussions with London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), it had been proposed that the lecture would be given by Professor Emma Smith, Professor of Shakespeare Studies at Hertford College, Oxford, who has written several books about the document and its printing.
4. The event would provide an opportunity to promote the reputation of the City of London's cultural and heritage assets and would also provide an opportunity to highlight the Guildhall Library and LMA as part of the City Corporation's cultural and academic offering. Guests at the reception would include representatives from cultural, literary and academic bodies, the Guildhall Library and LMA, and the City's schools and academies.
5. The next formal meeting of Court of Common Council was not due to take place until Thursday 22nd June 2023. Delaying approval until this point would not have allowed sufficient time for invitations to be issued, replies to be received and final arrangements for the event to begin. An event of this size requires final planning and preparations to begin several weeks in advance to allow sufficient time to prepare for the event and to ensure its success.

6. Accordingly, a decision of Court of Common Council was sought and obtained under urgency procedures, with it agreed that hospitality be granted for a lecture and early evening reception and that arrangements be made under the auspices of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee; the costs to met from City's Cash and within the approved parameters.

RECOMMENDATION

7. We **recommend** that the action taken be noted.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 8th day of June 2023.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Tom Sleigh
Chair, Civic Affairs Sub-Committee