

Report of the Town Clerk to be considered in conjunction with Item 4 –

The Election of Chief Commoner

To be presented on Thursday, 12th October 2023

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

To elect a Chief Commoner

Two candidates, Deputy Peter Dunphy and Deputy Andrien Meyers, have been validly nominated in accordance with Standing Order no. 18. The candidates were invited to provide information in support of their nomination and the following submissions were received:-

Deputy Peter Dunphy

I have been asked by many members – residents and workers, newly elected and long-standing to stand for Chief. I've served on the Court for nearly 15 years, chaired committees and been Deputy Governor of the Irish Society (The lead Commoner on the Society). I am a Draper and member of the Communicators. I understand the processes and governance of the Corporation and would perform the role of Chief effectively and diligently. As you know I have always treated all fellow members with respect and courtesy. The newly formalised role of the Chief within the complaints/standards process means that we need someone who is calm, can mediate, is independent of perceived interest groups or cliques and has a strong understanding of the history and development of the Court over the last two decades.

The role has an important internal function, and I will be always available for both confidential and open discussion, to listen and consider ways to help all members feel fully included in the life, business, and activities of the Court which should embrace the diversity of experience that our members offer. A key role will be making sure that excellent preparations are in place for the induction, guidance, and training of newly elected Councillors in March 2025.

There is also an external facing role - with the Livery, Ward Clubs, Resident Associations and many other partners acting as an ambassador and as a sounding board for everything that we do for the City. I will seek to work constructively with the Policy & Resources committee as well as the wider civic team across Guildhall, the Mansion House and the Old Bailey.

I am semi-retired and self-employed able to commit to the role fully. I can easily delegate and reschedule other obligations. Thank you for your support.

Deputy Andrien Meyers

Dear Fellow Members,

I'm in a fortunate position that I am at a stage in my professional career where I am able to fully commit myself to the work of Chief Commoner should I be so honoured to be elected by the Court.

The role is internal and external facing. Having visibility internally with fellow members is crucial. I will focus on cohesion, member development and the cooperative spirit of "One City". Whether I am navigating challenging Chairing responsibilities on Investment Committee or EDI Sub-committee, I have tried to carry out my work with integrity and gain the trust of members; this is a key aspect I look to bring to the role.

Externally I intend to not only play an active part at civic events, but also at occasions showcase our diverse and progressive Organisation. I've represented the Corporation on various occasions e.g. Investments at Cannes/Munich, EDI at the Barbican, Charity cricket for past Lord Mayor.

As a Freeman of the Goldsmiths I enjoy working on the Communications & Marketing committee and EDI. I'm also with the Guild of Investment Managers which closely relates to my day job, where I'm Head of Pensions Investments and advisor to investment firms.

My passion for social mobility can be traced back to my arrival in the UK as a 16-year old boy in 2001. A recipient of many mentors, I try to give back at any opportunity, via the investment industry and sport. E.g Co-founder of the Catalyst after school investment programme, and work on Afro Caribbean Cricket.

Now in my second term and with over 50% change in Court, I've been encouraged from a wide and diverse range of members which has helped shape my intentions.

Thank you for taking time to read my message and would be grateful for your support.