

# Report – Civic Affairs Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee

## Application for Hospitality

*To be presented on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

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

### SUMMARY

This report sets out proposals for, and seeks agreement to, the provision of hospitality by the City of London Corporation at various forthcoming events, namely the Early evening reception to mark the 100th anniversary of the Buddhist Society.

### Recommendation

That the Court of Common Council approve that hospitality application within this report be granted, and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

### MAIN REPORT

#### **Early evening reception to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Buddhist Society**

1. It is proposed that the City Corporation hosts an early evening reception on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Buddhist Society.
2. The Buddhist Society was founded in 1924 by Christmas Humphreys QC, a distinguished Buddhist Scholar, author and lawyer. Based in London, it is one of the oldest Buddhist societies in Europe, and in 1961 the Dalia Lama became its patron.
3. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society will be celebrated on Buddha Day (Vesak), which in the UK in 2024 will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Buddha Day celebrates the birth, enlightenment, teachings and death of the Buddha.
4. Guests at the event would include representatives from the Buddhist Society and other Buddhist organisations, the City's faith communities, City businesses and faith networks, diplomats from countries with major Buddhist populations, and representatives of national and local government.
5. The event would support the following Corporate Plan outcomes: to promote and champion diversity, inclusion and the removal of institutional barriers and structural inequalities (outcome 3a); provide access to world-class heritage, culture and learning to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds (outcome 3b); and bring individuals and communities together to share experiences and promote wellbeing, mutual respect and tolerance (outcome 4a).

6. It is **recommended** that hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

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

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023

SIGNED on behalf of the Sub-Committee.

**Tom Sleigh**  
Chair, Civic Affairs Sub-Committee