

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

### The Election of Chief Commoner

*To be presented on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025*

*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, **Charles Edward Lord** and **Philip Woodhouse**, 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:-

#### **Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP**

After nearly twenty-five years' service, I am seeking your support to be Chief Commoner for 2026–2027. I believe I can bring experience, energy, and empathy to the role, ensuring that the Corporation does everything it can to support its Members in our broad and diverse duties.

Throughout my time here, I have made it my mission to help colleagues – new and experienced alike – navigate the often complex machinery of Guildhall, enabling them to be effective in their work for constituents and in shaping the Corporation's policy agenda. I have always sought to support Members, even when we have disagreed, because our shared purpose is to serve the City and ensure this ancient and remarkable body works as well as it can.

If elected, I will be on the side of all Members. I will continue to work to improve the facilities and services we rely on and ensure that Members' privileges are maintained and where possible enhanced. I will prioritise strengthening our training and development, enhancing the ways we can communicate with our constituents, and ensuring that grievances are dealt with swiftly and fairly.

I will work hard to support our City's leaders – the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman – in all that they do to promote the square mile and the industries and residents we represent.

I also want to listen – to understand your hopes and frustrations, and to use my knowledge of the Corporation's procedures to help you achieve your goals. Above all, I will aim to be a sympathetic ear, a fair arbiter, and a strong advocate for elected Members.

I am honoured to have been nominated for this important civic role and hope that you will place your confidence in me when we vote at Common Council on Thursday 9 October.

## **Philip Woodhouse**

I am honoured to stand for election as Chief Commoner. Nominated by a diverse group of colleagues, I ask for your support with humility and determination.

Over 12 years on the Court, I've seen how a good Chief Commoner makes a real difference – as sounding board, mentor, and representative. If elected, I would seek to serve members in those ways in 2026/27.

The role comes with challenges, but also opportunities to foster respect, collaboration, and inclusivity. I believe the Chief Commoner's job is to support colleagues so that each can contribute fully to the work of the Corporation and the businesses and residents we represent. That also means being willing, respectfully, to confront difficult questions when required.

### My pledges

If elected, I will:

- Support members in delivering for their electorates by removing barriers to participation.
- Promote collaboration and inclusive debate – ensuring all voices are heard.
- Ensure training is up-to-date and responsive to member feedback.
- Be visible, present, and committed to members.
- Improve accountability and communication across the Court.
- Foster cohesion and inclusion, so all members feel respected and supported.
- Bring energy, humour, and perspective – because our work should be rewarding as well as serious.

### About me

Elected in Langbourn in 2013, and re-elected in 2017, 2022 and 2025, I dedicate my time fully to the Court. My City career began at 14 as a messenger, later in commodity trading at ED&F Man and Tate & Lyle. I have had the privilege to chair many committees and each role has reinforced my belief that collaboration achieves results. I care deeply about the Court, and bring a pragmatic, principled, and people-focused style. With your support, we can build a more effective, inclusive Court that speaks confidently for the City.

It would be an honour to serve as your Chief Commoner.