



Report – Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee

Appointment of Chairman to the Benefices Sub Committee

To be presented on Thursday, 5th March 2015

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

SUMMARY AND REPORT

1. The current Chairman of the Benefices Sub Committee, Deputy William Harry Dove, O.B.E., J.P., has served the Sub Committee well for a number of years and is willing to stand as Chairman again in 2015/16. However, he had also been elected as Chief Commoner (2015-16) and Standing Order 18 (6) precludes the Chief Commoner from chairing, amongst others, the Benefices Sub Committee.
2. The Benefices Sub Committee met 3 times in 2014/15 and the Chairman is elected from amongst its membership. Its Terms of Reference are '*to consider matters relating to the City's obligations for its various Benefices*' and this largely relates to the City of London Corporation's right as Patron to present (appoint) Clergy to a Benefice (Church in the Church of England).
3. Members of this Honourable Court are asked to note the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 and The Patronage (Benefices) Rules 1987* which seek to confine the exercise of Church of England Patronage; i.e. the right to present Clergy, to those who are 'actual' Communicant Members of the Church of England or of a church in communion with it.

* '*when appointing Members to this Sub Committee, whether the registered patron of a benefice is a body corporate or incorporate (as is the case with the City) then, on receiving notice of a vacancy in the Benefice under the Measure, that body is required to appoint an individual who is able and willing to make a 'declaration of membership', i.e. declaring that he or she is an actual communicant member of the Church of England etc., or is a clerk in Holy Orders, and who it is intended shall act as the representative of the patron in order to discharge the registered patron's functions*'.

4. Therefore, on receiving notice of a vacancy in a benefice, it is advantageous if the City's representative (i.e. the Chairman of the Benefices Sub Committee) is able to discharge, on behalf of the Sub Committee/City Corporation, its functions as Patron and be able and willing to make the necessary declaration of Membership, as set out above. Deputy Billy Dove (Chief Commoner elect) is willing and able to make this declaration and would like to be considered for re-election as Chairman of the Benefices Sub Committee for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATION

5. We **recommend** that Standing Order 18 (6) (c) be waived in this instance so that Deputy William Harry Dove, O.B.E., J.P., the Chief Commoner Elect, could be considered for re-election as Chairman of the Benefices Sub Committee in 2015/16.

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

DATED this 26th day of January 2015.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Vivienne Littlechild, J.P.
Chairman, Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee