

# **CHARTER TRUST FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM**

**15 June 2021**

**Ceremonial Occasion**



**City of Durham**

## **Report of Bryan Smith, Clerk to the Charter Trustees**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To propose to Charter Trustees that the ceremonial occasion of the swearing in of the new Mayor and of the presentation of the jewels and medals ("Mayor making") be postponed pending Government announcements regarding covid protection rules.

### **Background**

2. Charter Trustees will know that historically the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor are traditionally voted in at the Annual Meeting and the Mayor is sworn in and receives the seal and robe of office during a ceremonial occasion at the Town Hall Durham City followed by speeches of thanks and presentation of various jewels of office and medals for members of the Mayors Bodyguard. In effect the Annual Meeting and the ceremonial occasion are combined.
3. The ceremonial occasion is normally open to distinguished guests, friends and family and the public and is normally well attended. The current covid restrictions and guidelines place restrictions upon indoor gatherings and remain in place until reviewed by Government on 21 June 2021.
4. The Standing Orders for meetings of the Charter Trustees prescribe that the Annual Meeting should take place within 21 days of the Annual Full Council meeting of Durham County Council and the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year. Voting in such election is by a show of hands. There is no provision in Standing Orders for the ceremonial part which is custom and practice in Durham City.

Therefore it is feasible to split the two meetings. We understand from ACTT that this is happening with other Charter Trustees towns elsewhere in the Country.

5. In view of the current restrictions it is problematic to arrange a full ceremonial occasion at least until the Government further review and announcement around 21 June 2021. It is proposed that the ceremonial occasion be postponed until the soonest available date after such announcement.

### **Recommendation**

6. That Trustees agree to postpone the traditional ceremonial occasion until after the Government review and announcement upon lifting of covid restrictions due on 21 June 2021.

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**Contact: Bryan Smith      Tel: 03000 269717**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The ceremonial occasion is a matter of custom and practice.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None specific within the report..

### **Climate Change**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable.