

REPORT TO: Resources Portfolio Meeting

DATE: 22nd January 2009

REPORT BY: Mandy Lindley Partnerships Manager (Voluntary and Community Sector)

SUBJECT: THE LORD MAYOR AND HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OR PATRON OF VARIOUS LOCAL GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

1. Purpose

To clarify and confirm the current situation and future policy with regard to the arrangements whereby the Lord Mayor is ex-officio president/patron of various local groups and societies. No previous policy has been found. This may be reviewed further following wider work to similarly clarify the overall role of Lord Mayor.

2. Recommendations

- (1) That as a matter of principle, future invitations to the Lord Mayor to become president/patron of a local organisation be accepted by the Lord Mayor of the day on a individual basis to be fulfilled during that Lord Mayor's year of office.**
- (2) That acceptance of a presidency/patronage is on the understanding that the organisation concerned is locally based or has clear local connections to a national organisation, and in any particular case the organisation/group must be of a non-party political nature.**
- (3) That organisations submit a request for presidency/patronage in January of each year (this should be up to a max of 50)**
- (4) The Manager of the Service will advise Lord Mayor on the suitability of an organisation upon which the decision can be made, that following the decision a letter is sent to notify organisations of the outcome by the end of April of each year.**
- (5) That requests for Trusteeships should be checked by the city council's legal and insurance and risk services.**

3. Background

There are a number of groups and societies in Portsmouth of which the president or patron is currently the Lord Mayor. In some cases the Lord Mayor's involvement with a particular group goes back many years. See Appendix 1 for current list. These organisations have been made aware of the need for annual renewal.

Acceptance of being president of one of these groups/societies by a Lord Mayor then effectively binds successor Lord Mayors, unless it has been made clear that a Lord Mayor has accepted the presidency on a one-year only basis.

4. What Role does the Lord Mayor Play?

As president/patron, the Lord Mayor is effectively a figurehead and is usually invited to the group/society's annual general meeting or any other social event that is taking place. In a number of cases the Lord Mayor is asked to speak, and in doing so he can usually take the opportunity to promote the city.

5. What Privileges are conferred upon the Group/Society?

A group/society with the Lord Mayor as its president/patron is usually granted up to two free uses of the Lord Mayor's Banqueting Room each year. One such use may, for example, be the group/society's annual general meeting, and a second use could well be a presentation or celebration event, or a social event to raise funds. On both occasions the group/society would invite the Lord Mayor to be in attendance.

6. What types of groups/societies should the Lord Mayor be president?

The Lord Mayor is the non-political figurehead of the City Council. The type of organisations put forward for consideration will be those whose nature of the group/societies are of a social/ recreational/charitable nature. It would be entirely inappropriate for the Lord Mayor to be president/patron of a group that has as one of its aims/objectives activities of a party political nature.

All the groups and societies of which the Lord Mayor is currently president/patron are non-party political and the criteria set out in the preceding paragraph should be the guiding principle as to whether the Lord Mayor of the day accepts a particular invitation to become president/patron.

7. Trusteeships

The following organisations have for the last few years requested the Lord Mayor as a trustee and they have been approached for a copy of their constitution/articles of governance: -

The Mary Rose Trust
The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth Coronation Homes
Portsmouth Grammar School
Home of comfort

The City Solicitor has reviewed the documents and confirmed all are companies limited by guarantee.

Companies limited by guarantee are used primarily for non-profit making organisation that requires a legal personality. A company limited by guarantee does not usually have a share capital, but instead has members who are guarantors instead of shareholders. The guarantors give an undertaking to contribute a nominal (typically very small) towards the winding up of the company in the event of a shortfall upon cessation of business.

The liability of the trustees will be limited to the level of the guarantee unless they fail to carry out their duties conscientiously to such a degree that they could be said to be acting outside of their role. This is unlikely but nonetheless is something that should be borne in mind by anyone undertaking the role.

It is usual for such companies to provide their own indemnity insurance for their trustees. When the Lord Mayor is acting as a trustee he will be carrying out the responsibilities of the trust and not acting on behalf of the council and therefore the council's own insurance would not cover the Lord Mayor.

Signed..... date.....

Fiona M White Head of Democratic and Community Engagement.

Appendix 1

Associations Lord Mayor has previously been invited to be Patron/President or Trustee of:-

Age Concern Portsmouth	Attend AGM Attended 1 st year anniversary at the new Bradbury Centre Attend Annual Christmas Concert	President
Association of the Britain-Australia Society (Portsmouth Branch) & the Portsmouth-Sydney Sister-City Link	Attend annual dinner (Oct/Nov); offer use of B/R for event (FOC)	President
City of Portsmouth Scout Council	Invited to attend some Scouting events/camp	Patron
Coronation Homes	Attend meetings	Trustee
Dickens Fellowship	Attend meeting Attend birthday tea	President
Enable Ability	Visit/Attend AGM	Patron
FORT Cancer Charity	Visit	Patron
Home of Comfort	Attend AGM	Trustee
Mary Rose Trust		Trustee
Portsmouth and Southsea Fencing Club	Attend Annual Prize giving	Patron
Portsmouth Association for the Blind	Attend AGM	President
Portsmouth Citizens' Advice Bureau	Attend AGM – use of B/R	President
Portsmouth Council of Community Service	Attend AGM – use of B/R	President
Portsmouth Family Welfare Association	Attend meeting – use of B/R	President
Portsmouth Golf Club	Attend presentation of trophies Attend Annual Presentation Dance	President
Portsmouth Grammar School	Attend meetings/other functions as invited	Ex Officio
Portsmouth Pensioners' Association	Attend meeting	Patron
Portsmouth Players	Attend performances	President
Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Trust (Support Group)	Visits	Patron

Portsmouth Stroke Club	Attend meeting	President
Relate Portsmouth & District	Attend AGM – use of B/R	President
St Mary's Music Foundation		Trustee
Southsea Rowing Club	Attend Regatta Prize giving	President
Lady Mayoress		
Inner Wheel Club of Portsmouth & Southsea	Attend birthday tea party	Honorary member

Accepted in 2007 (but not requested in 2008)			
King George's Fund for Sailors		Vice- President	
Portsmouth and District Table Tennis Association		President	
Rotary Club of Portsmouth and Southsea	Attend meeting	Honorary Member	
South Hants Glass Portsmouth Youth Football League		President	
The Phoenix Players (Portsmouth)	Attend performances	Honorary Patron	
Previously accepted (2004 and earlier)			
Polish War Memorial		President	
Portsmouth and District Organists' Association		Patron	
Portsmouth Cathedral Appeal		Vice President	
Portsmouth Silver Band		President	
The Mary Rose Trust		Trustee	