



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Item No:- FC24/011

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	19 th June 2024
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Mayoral Activity
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To advise the committee on Mayoral activities

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report and express a view about the circumstances in which a calamitous loss of the mace or chains might be approached.

3. Information – Mayoral activity

- 3.1. As at the end of June, the Mayor will have attended 11 engagements and chaired the Annual Town meeting. The Deputy Mayor will have attended two engagements.
- 3.2. The Mayor's beer, brewed by Potbelly Brewery, has now been produced and has gone on sale. Every bottle sold raises 40p for the mayor's charity. The label is reproduced below.



- 3.3. The Mayor (the idea was the Deputy Mayor's) is to write a monthly column on his activity for the Evening Telegraph and the first one is due to be published at the end of June.
- 3.4. There have been some limitations placed on the use of Mayoral social media whilst purdah applies in the run up to the general election.

4. Coat of Arms, mace and regalia.

- 4.1. Gildings of Market Harborough have valued the mace, chains and gavel for insurance purposes. The values are as follows .

1. Mace	£80,000
2. Mayors Chain and pendant	£50,000
3. Deputy Mayors Chain and pendant	£12,000
4. Mayoress/consort's chain	£ 7,000
5. Deputy Mayoress/consort's chain	£10,000
6. Replica Mayors chain and new pendant	£ 8,000
7. Replica Deputy Mayor's chain and pendant	£ 5,000
8. Gavel	£ 500
9. Pendants for Consorts chains	£ 4,500

Total £177,000

The valuation in the asset register was £160.250 for these items.

- 4.2. Gildings have recommended that the Council considered in advance what they would do if there was a calamitous loss of one or more of these items,(as opposed to repairable damage) so that there is a clear policy route to follow if it did occur.

The choices are

- Like for like replacement – this is probably impossible in the case of the Mace but more realistic in the case of the chains, especially the replica chains.
- In the case of the mace, commissioning a modern version with less use of precious metals, so that the function remains but a more practical, more relevant and less financially burdensome item results.

In either case the views of our insurers would need to be taken into account as to the way in which a replacement would be costed and acquired vis a vis the insurance value. Members' views on this topic can inform a conversation with the insurers, who will in any case be now advised about the revised insurance values above.

5. Consultation and Engagement

None applicable

6. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

Gildings fee for their valuation work was £311 for which provision exists in the budget.

7. Climate change implications

None

8. Policy Implications

The Council's policy is to support the Mayoralty as a means of generating civic pride and identify, and for the Mayor to embody and represent the town internally and externally.

Background Papers

Related correspondence

Valuation of insignia etc