



Governance Committee

Item
3

30 June 2015

Report of	Monitoring Officer	Author	Andrew Weavers ☎ 282213
Title	Appointment of High Steward		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

This report requests the Committee to recommend that Sir Bob Russell be appointed as High Steward of Colchester

1. Decision Required

- 1.1 To recommend to Council that Sir Bob Russell be chosen as High Steward of the Borough of Colchester and a special meeting of the Council be convened on a date to be determined to pass an appropriate resolution.

2. Background

- 2.1 The office of High Steward was created in Colchester by means of a Royal Charter dated 9 July 1635, which was also the Charter that first gave the town a Mayor in place of two annually elected Bailiffs.

The Charter sets out the duties of the High Steward as being:-

“to advise and direct the Mayor and Commonalty of the same Borough in the chief business touching that Borough.”

The Charter goes on to say that after the death or resignation of a High Steward:-

“...at a time fitting.....it shall be rightfully lawful for the Mayor, Aldermen, Assistants, Common Council and Free Burgesses of the Commonalty of the Borough..... to choose and prefer one other as High Steward....”

- 2.1 The office of High Steward has been vacant since 2009 following the resignation of Professor Sir Ivor Crewe who held the office from 2003.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 The Leader of the Council and the Group Leaders agreed that Sir Bob Russell be offered the post of High Steward in recognition of his many years of public service to the Borough. Sir Bob Russell has subsequently accepted.
- 3.2 Sir Bob Russell will become the 23rd High Steward of the Borough of Colchester and the Committee is requested to recommend to full Council that it agrees to confer the title at a special meeting of the Council to be convened on a date to be determined.

4. Strategic Plan References

- 4.1 The manner in which Council governs its business is an underpinning mechanism in the Council's Strategic Plan aims to set out the direction and future potential for our Borough.

8. Financial Considerations

- 8.1 The only financial considerations are in relation to the costs of convening a special council meeting and a commemorative scroll. The special meeting will be held on the same day as the special meeting convened for the conferment of new Honorary Aldermen.

9. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 9.1 No direct implications

10. Publicity Considerations

- 10.1 The special council meeting will be open to the public and details will be published on the Council's website.

11. Consultation, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management Implications

- 11.1 No direct implications.