

Set out below is a summary of the of the key issues arising out of the meeting of the Livery Committee held on 11 September 2019

Vicky Russell was re-elected as its chairman for 2019/20 and Deputy Philip Woodhouse was re-elected as its deputy chairman.

Under the minutes of previous meetings, proposals for possible changes to the annual Clerk's Briefing were touched on, together with the position on the committee held by Mr David Barrett. It was agreed that Mr Barrett's membership should be reviewed again in February 2020, pending clarification.

A report by the chairman was considered covering various activities and aspects of work undertaken and in-hand. This included, but was not limited to, the annual Livery Committee event and plans to survey all livery Clerks on the nature and content of the annual briefing for clerks. A report on the proposed Livery Committee website was considered. A total of nine bids had been received from prospective contractors and it was agreed to accept the tender of a company to take forward the production and implementation of this project.

An update on pan livery progress was given. Alderman Sir Charles Bowman (shortly to be appointed to the committee in place of Alderman William Russell, who was stepping down) had recently taken over as chairman of the pan livery steering group and spoke about work in-hand. The update included reference to a pilot project for ex-offenders and progress with the proposed communications plan.

The Committee reviewed the outcome of the arrangements made for Common Hall in June 2019 (election of Sheriffs) and agreed to look at the scope for improvements in the future. The chairman read a letter received from a liveryman commenting on various aspects of the arrangements. An update on the Common Hall arrangements for the election of Lord Mayor in October, was also given.

The Committee's liaison scheme (for liaison between individual committee members and livery companies) was discussed and current allocations were left in place, pending the conclusion of the committee's business plan and other matters.

The committee also received reports on the activities of the Livery Skills Council and Livery Schools Link.

A report from the Town Clerk on future resourcing for the committee was considered. The contract with the current Livery Committee Manager, Simon Murrells, (a dedicated resource specifically for the Livery Committee) was shortly coming to an end. In light of the City Corporation's current review of its resourcing, future administrative support for the committee would continue to include the provision of clerking etc, but the Committee Manager post would not be funded at this stage. In the interim, options for additional administrative support for the committee were being explored, including on a pro bono basis.

Under other business, reference was made to future double Aldermanic Shrievalties and it was confirmed that the Livery Committee was only able to note such arrangements, rather than approve them.