

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**PUBLIC REPORT**

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of: Date of Decision:	Service Director Localisation 19 January 2016
SUBJECT:	SUTTON COLDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CIVIC REGALIA

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To approve release of the Sutton Coldfield mayoral chains of office, mayoral robes and mace from Birmingham City Council to the Sutton Coldfield Parish Council.
- 1.2 To authorise the Director of Localisation, to take the necessary steps to implement the decision.

2. Recommendations :

- 2.1 That, Council Business Management Committee authorises release of the Sutton Coldfield mayoral chains, mayoral robes and mace to the Sutton Coldfield Parish Council and for the future ownership of and responsibility for these items to pass to the Parish Council.
- 2.2 That an event be held on 1 March 2016, in the Council Chamber, to acknowledge the significant landmark of the establishment of the Parish of Sutton Coldfield and the Interim Parish Council and for the formal handover of the civic regalia to the Parish Council to take place.

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3. Relevant background/chronology of key events.
<p>3.1 On 4 January 2016, Council Business Management (CBM) noted approval of the Reorganisation Order which, on 1 March 2016, will bring into effect the Parish of Sutton Coldfield and an Interim Parish Council for Sutton Coldfield, with all the powers of a statutory parish council.</p> <p>3.2 Under the terms of Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the terms of the Reorganisation Order approved on 22 December 2015, it was agreed that the transfer of any assets, services or liabilities would be made by separate agreements.</p> <p>3.3 As previously reported to CBM, under section 245(6) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council, once established, could elect to have the status of a town and the Parish Council could be called Sutton Coldfield Town Council.</p> <p>3.4 Furthermore, a Town Council is, by statute, entitled to decide to have either a Chairman of the Town Council or a Mayor.</p> <p>3.5 There are clear indications that the Parish Council will elect to have the status of Town Council. The validated petition that led to the Community Governance Review was for a Town Council for Sutton Coldfield, as was the consultative ballot question, which residents voted in favour of.</p> <p>3.6 In all of the consultation activities undertaken on the Community Governance Review, pride in the civic heritage of Sutton Coldfield was clearly apparent. A number of residents asked about re-instatement of the Town Mayor and return of the mayoral chains of office and other civic regalia, i.e. robes and mace to Sutton Coldfield.</p> <p>3.7 The Parish Council Steering Group has also indicated its preference to have the status of a town and for the civic regalia to be returned to Sutton Coldfield. The chairman of the Parish Council Steering Group has therefore requested formal release of the mayoral chains, robes and mace to the Sutton Coldfield Parish Council.</p> <p>3.8 Notwithstanding the decisions that the future Parish Council will take regarding the status of town council and whether or not to have a Mayor, there is a strong sense that the civic regalia, which transferred from the former Borough of Sutton Coldfield to Birmingham City Council following the Local Government Reorganisation in 1974, should be released to the new Parish Council.</p> <p>3.9 The civic regalia symbolises continuity, local identity and civic pride. Following the transfer of the former borough of Sutton Coldfield to Birmingham City Council, the Sutton Coldfield civic regalia were maintained by the City's Museum service. However, as the Sutton Coldfield Parish Council will be the most local tier of government, given the local historic significance of the civic regalia, it is recommended that the mayoral chains, robes and mace are released to the Parish Council and for the future ownership and responsibility (including insurance, maintenance and any future replacement costs) for these items to pass to the Parish Council.</p> <p>3.10 The City Council will make good these items prior to their release and arrange for any necessary repairs to be carried out.</p>

4. Future use of the Mayoral Chains, Robes and Mace

4.1 Should the above items be released then the Parish Council would decide the future use of these items. This would include either their continued use in civic office or for them to be appropriately and securely displayed locally.

Signatures of approval to submit the report to Committee:

Signed:

Title:

Dated:

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

Community Governance Review – Reorganisation Order Report to Council Business
Management Committee 4 January 2016

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any)