

Subject: Mayoral Report 2014-15**Date of Meeting: 21 May 2015****Report of: Assistant Chief Executive****Contact Officer: Name: Martin Warren Tel: 29-1225****Email: martin.warren@brighton-hove.gov.uk****Ward(s) affected: All****For General Release****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 This report informs Council of the activities of the Mayor, Councillor Brian Fitch, during the civic year 2014-15

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the report be noted

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Mayor is the first citizen of Brighton & Hove and carries out a range of civic and ceremonial duties, representing the council at hundreds of events across the city, around the region and on occasion, overseas.
- 3.2 Many organisations contact the Mayor's office to request mayoral presence at their events. Mayoral presence helps them to raise their profile, which in turn can increase attendance, generate publicity and increase opportunities for fund raising.
- 3.3 In addition, during their year of office each Mayor raises thousands of pounds for their chosen charities and the Mayor's Parlour is offered free for the nominated Mayor's charities to hold fundraising events.
- 3.4 Like most mayors, the Mayor of Brighton & Hove is not elected directly by the people, holds no direct power and is politically neutral during his or her term of office. The role is largely ceremonial, unlike that of the Mayor of London and a small number of other directly elected mayors who hold political power.
- 3.5 The Mayor undertakes many different duties including:
- Chairing meetings of Full Council, including the council's budget setting meeting, making sure they are conducted properly and fairly.
 - Supporting the main aims of the council

- Representing the council at public, civic and ceremonial events both in and outside the city
 - Acting as an ambassador for the city and working with a wide range of local organisations
- 3.6 This year has seen a particular increase in events supporting the Armed Services and Veterans as the nation commemorates the centenary of World War One, the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and VE Day and other related military anniversaries. The Mayor has been pleased to be able to attend and support the majority of these and extends his gratitude to those organisations that have co-ordinated and supported them. The Mayor was particularly touched by the reminiscences and memories of Veterans; many of whom appreciated the Mayors theme for the year of 'peace and harmony'.
- 3.7 The Mayor was also pleased to have been able to attend the 'International Association of Peace Messengers' event in Turon, Poland and the 69th commemorative anniversary event in Hiroshima for 'Mayors for Peace'.
- 3.8 During his Mayoral year (2014-15) the Mayor carried out in excess of five hundred engagements of which approximately;
- 271 involved community groups / associations and promoting the city
 - 36 were associated with Education / young people or schools
 - 15 related to Faith Communities
 - 28 related to sport and leisure or health
 - 39 were traditional / heritage events
 - 52 were meetings and briefings / council projects or initiatives
 - 12 were related to Arts and culture
 - 35 related to charities
 - 63 were receptions
- 3.9 The Mayor has attended many memorable events, including
- Remembrance Day Commemorations
 - The Chattri Memorial
 - Citizenship Ceremonies
 - Pride
 - Sussex Beacon half marathon
 - Church & Faith festivals
 - Brighton In Bloom
 - The city's first conversions of civil partnerships to same sex marriages
 - The Brighton Festival and Brighton Fringe Festival
 - Numerous veteran vehicle runs
 - Commemoration of Normandy D-Day landings
 - The Children's Parade

- 3.10 The Mayors Parlour has been used on many occasions throughout the year, including;
- Civic Receptions
 - All Meetings of the Mayors Charity Committee
 - Meetings of the Trustees of Gorham's Gift
 - All meetings of the Brighton Fund
- 3.11 The Mayor wishes to thank the Youth and Deputy Youth Mayors; Alex Boyle & Maram Tikriti for their support. He considers their passion, accountability and sense of civic responsibility a credit to young people. He was particularly touched by their support for Remembrance Day and associated events.
- 3.12 The Mayors chosen charities this year have been; 'The Martlets', The Argus Appeal' and 'Brighton Housing Trust'. The Mayor wishes to thank his Charity Committee and in particular Antonia Shepherd (Chair) and Belinda Cousins (Administration) for their sterling work. Funds raised for charity look set to exceed £35K.
- 3.13 The Mayor wishes to thank Father John Wall for acting as his Chaplain and Fathers Robert Chavner, Phil Ritchie and Jerry O'Brien for their support.
- 3.14 The Mayor has been assisted and supported this year by Councillor Denise Cobb (Deputy Mayor) who attended over fifty events to represent the Mayoralty, and Former Mayors, Councillors Randall, Mrs. Norman and Wells; the Mayor thanks them for their support and flexibility.
- 3.15 The Mayor would like to extend particular thanks to his wife, Norah who has inhabited the role of Mayoress with aplomb, grace and good humour. He also wishes to thank his friends, family and fellow councillors in supporting him, not only during his Mayoral term, but during his final year as an elected Member.
- 3.16 The Mayor is grateful to officers and particularly wishes to thank Richard Butcher-Tuset for his support and guidance, Matt Wragg and Siobhan Williams for their budgetary oversight and advice, Robbie Robertson, Darren Patching, Keiran Madden and Paul Grundy for their chauffeuring and diplomatic skills, Trudy Haigh and Emma Riley for their administrative support and Martin Warren for his ministrations in respect of the Mayor's Office.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Not required

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Mayor has been consulted on the content of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Mayoral report reflects the work and interest of the incumbent during their term in office; as such it has no formal designation and is presented as an historic record.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are none arising from this report.

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are none arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are none arising from this report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 There are no other significant implications.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

There are no supporting documents