

Executive Decision Report

Leicester Cathedral – Reinterment of King Richard III

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor
Decision to be taken on: 17 June 2014
Lead director: Frank Jordan



City Mayor

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IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION HAS IT APPEARED ON THE PUBLISHED FORWARD PLAN	N/a
ANTICIPATED DATE FOR DECISION (if required)	17 June 2014
DATE OF RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMISSION – please detail name of commission(s)	N/a
DATE OF PAPERWORK ENTERING PUBLIC DOMAIN (note: if considered by scrutiny, this will be the scrutiny agenda publication date)	9 June 2014
MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS: Is a press release required? Will this be proactive or reactive?	Reactive press release required to respond to publication of county report
PLEASE INCLUDE DETAILS OF OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS AS PART OF DECISION/CONSULTATION PROCESS: This should include details of discussions with relevant stakeholders and/or ward councillors.	

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Castle
- Report author: Frank Jordan
- Author contact details:
- Report version number: 002

1. Summary

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the City Council to provide underwriting support for the works required to reinter King Richard III in accordance with the plans approved by the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE).

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the City Mayor:

- a) Notes the proposed arrangements for the reinterment of King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral;
- b) Notes that the Cathedral have planned a significant fundraising campaign to meet the costs of the reinterment, and that significant expressions of support have already been made;
- c) Notes that without the necessary funding in place the Cathedral cannot make firm arrangements for the reinterment in Spring 2015;
- d) Agrees that the City Council provides underwriting assurances of up to £250,000 to enable the Cathedral to make the necessary arrangements in relation to the works required to reinter King Richard III;
- e) Notes that the County Council's Cabinet is being recommended to agree to a similar contribution to the underwriting of the works at the Cathedral; and
- f) Notes that if an upfront financial contribution is required it is the stated intention of the Cathedral that this will be repaid in full from funds raised by their campaign
- g) This decision will then be subject to a signed agreement between the Council and Cathedral.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

- a)** On 1st April 2014, following the discovery of the remains of King Richard III in the City, the Cathedral announced that its plans for the reordering of the Cathedral had been approved by the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England.
- b)** These proposals will allow for the reinterment of King Richard III and also include improvements to the layout of the building for worship and for two new stained glass windows. It is proposed that the reinterment ceremony and the related events will take place in Spring 2015.
- c)** The costs of the construction works needed inside the Cathedral including all related professional fees, are expected to be somewhere in the region of £1m. The Cathedral has already secured £500k from the Samworth Foundation and therefore needs a further £500k. The Cathedral has prepared a significant fundraising campaign in order to meet these costs and expect to start this in the coming weeks.
- d)** A number of expressions of support have already been received, and at this stage the Cathedral are confident of achieving the level of funding required.
- e)** The funds generated by this campaign will not be fully secured until later in the year, which currently prevents the Cathedral from making firm arrangements for the reinterment and embarking on any works required.
- f)** Making these arrangements and entering into any contractual agreements required as part of the preparation for the reinterment before the fundraising is concluded poses a financial risk to the Cathedral which they are unable to provide the necessary assurances to mitigate.
- g)** As key partners in the discovery and celebration of the life of King Richard III, the City Council and Leicestershire County Council are both recommended to underwrite the support required so that the Cathedral can commission the work required to allow for the reordering of the Cathedral by Spring 2015.
- h)** For the City Council's part, it is proposed that underwriting assurances up to the value of £250,000 are provided for this purpose.

4. Details of Scrutiny

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5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The underwriting arrangements outlined above may mean that the council will not have to allocate any direct funding to the Cathedral to enable it to commission the necessary contracts to undertake the required works for the reinterment of King Richard III.

Furthermore, if the council does have to make a financial contribution this is to be repaid to the Council by the Cathedral.

A budget provision of £250,000 can be made to cover this underwriting arrangement. This can be funded from a carry forward from the 2013/14 revenue budget underspend.

Alison Greenhill, Director of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

Under s 1 Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence which would permit the decision in paragraph 2 (a) as long as the act is not prohibited by legislation (which it is not) and public law principles are applied.

In terms of the document which will effect the underwriting commitment, legal services can advise on this. The financial implications state that if the Council has to make any financial contribution this will be on terms to be repaid to the Council. In this eventuality, legal services can advise on the terms and form of such agreement in order to protect the Council's interests and ensure compliance with relevant laws. Client officers should take early legal advice in this respect.

Beena Adatia, Principal Solicitor (Commercial, Contracts and Capital)

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no climate implications relating to this decision

5.4 Equalities Implications

Not applicable

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

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6. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

7. Is this a “key decision”?

No