

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – NORTHAMPTON POST UNITARY

Reply from Phil Ager (Chairman) & Terry Sibley (Archivist), Freemen of Northampton Trustees:-

CORE QUESTIONS:

1. Please can you provide details of civic pride, events and ceremonies that currently or previously took place in Northampton for the Scrutiny Panel's consideration for inclusion of its formal list

The Trustees of the Freemen of Northampton attend all Mayoral civic engagements within the borough, specifically Mayor Making, Mayoral Charity Sunday, Arms Services, Oak Apple Day, Crown Court Service and Remembrance Sunday. The Freemen provide the Sword Bearer for all Civic processions and when required the Mace Bearer.

2. How are Northampton's civic events and ceremonies marketed?

Make more use of IT Media and networking with kindred organizations such as Chamber of Trade, Rotary, Youth Organisations, Theatre, English Heritage, National Trust, etc.

3. Please provide suggestions how you feel the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority.

Keep the Mayoralty and civic functions and ceremonies. Encourage the general public of Northampton and beyond by greater publicity and networking as previously outlined to attend these historic occasions. By using the jewel of Northampton ie the historic Guildhall, as a focal point for visitors to attend and processions to start and finish from. Thus enhancing the public's perception and pride in the town and further enhancing the role of the new Unitary Authority within this structure.

The Borough of Northampton was created by Royal Charter and hence will continue to exist even after the Borough Council is dissolved.

All Civic Regalia to be retained for use in Civic and Mayoral functions as the Borough of Northampton will continue to exist as will its heritage, even if the Borough Council does not.

- 4 **Question to internal witnesses:** What is role of Northampton Borough Council in civic events and ceremonies within the borough ?
All councillors to attend all civic ceremonies without prejudice. Thus enhancing the historic role and pageantry of Mayor events and hopefully by so doing create deeper pride in the town of Northampton and the council.
- 5 **Question to external witnesses:** What is the role of partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough ?
The collective role of all partners in civic events and ceremonies within the Borough is to enhance, publicise and support Northampton in all aspects of the civic events and thus encouraging tourism and commerce into Northampton for the greater good.
- 6 In your opinion, how can all assets, including Museums and their contents, in the borough be preserved and secured?
By publicity.
- 7 Do you have any other information you are able to provide in relation to civic pride in Northampton
Share more information regarding the functions and history and make it more available to the general public by publicity. Make the Horrible History of Northampton displayed last August in the Grosvenor Centre a permanent display.