

REPORT TITLE: Recognition of Mayoress/Mayors Consort
To:

Civic Affairs & Audit Committee (5 October 2025)

Report by:

Dan Kalley, Head of Governance and Democracy (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

 Email: dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk
Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Director Robert Pollock confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Committee.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	It is recommended that the Civic Affairs & Audit Committee approve the award of the badges to previous Mayoress' and Mayors Consorts in recognition of their support to the City Council Mayor's
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	The Civic Affairs & Audit Committee have previously requested that recognition of previous Mayoress' and Consorts are recognised by the Council for the work they do in supporting the Mayor during their term of office. Officers have investigated different ways to honour that role and are proposing that badges, similar to the Mayor's badge, are presented to previous Mayoress' and Consorts with this being carried out at the next Annual Council meeting in May 2027 with invites being sent to these eligible to receive this.
3.	Alternative options considered

3.1	The alternative option is to not proceed with any formal recognition with the current practice of recognising this support during the Annual meeting.
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	The office of Mayor is a significant civic role, involving representation of the Council and the city at a wide range of civic, community, charitable and ceremonial events throughout the Mayoral year. The Mayor will regularly attend engagements on behalf of the Council, meet community organisations and voluntary groups, support local charities and represent Cambridge at events both within and outside the city. The badge would provide a visible and appropriate means of recognising the contribution made by the Mayor's Mayoress or Consort during the Mayoral year. It would also provide an identifiable piece of civic insignia which could be worn when attending civic engagements alongside, or on behalf of, the Mayor. The introduction of a badge would not create a new office or confer any additional authority on the Mayoress or Consort. Rather, it would formally recognise the supportive and representative role undertaken during the Mayoral year and acknowledge the contribution made to the Mayor's civic programme and to the city.
	The Mayor's Mayoress or Consort can provide an important source of personal and practical support to the Mayor during their year of office. Depending on the Mayor's wishes and the individual circumstances of the Mayoress or Consort, this can include accompanying the Mayor at civic and community engagements, attending events independently on the Mayor's behalf, supporting the Mayor's chosen charities and helping to build relationships with local organisations and community groups. The role is not an elected office and does not carry any independent decision-making authority on behalf of the Council. The Mayoress or Consort acts in support of the Mayor and, where attending an engagement in their own right, does so as part of the Mayor's civic programme and in accordance with the Council's civic protocols.

4.3	There is established practice among local authorities of recognising the contribution of a Mayoress or Mayor's Consort through a badge or other civic insignia. There is current practice of presenting badges to Mayoresses and Consorts at annual civic ceremonies. Worcester City Council, for example, presents a Consort's or Mayoress's Badge when the new Mayor announces their Mayoress or Consort, and presents past Mayoress and Consort badges to those completing their year of service. Similarly, Stockport Council has formally invested Mayoresses with a Badge of Office as part of its Mayoral arrangements.
4.4	The badge would provide a visible and appropriate means of recognising the contribution made by the Mayor's Mayoress or Consort during the Mayoral year. It would also provide an identifiable piece of civic insignia which could be worn when attending civic engagements alongside, or on behalf of, the Mayor. The introduction of a badge would not create a new office or confer any additional authority on the Mayoress or Consort. Rather, it would formally recognise the supportive and representative role undertaken during the Mayoral year and acknowledge the contribution made to the Mayor's civic programme and to the city.
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	Civic Affairs & Audit Committee have briefly discussed this proposal at previous meetings and is being brought back for final decision. Past Mayors have also welcomed the introduction of this proposal
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	Badges would be presented to outgoing Mayoress' or Consorts following their year in office. As mentioned earlier in the report any previous Mayoress' or Consort will be able to receive a badge.
8.	Implications

	Relevant risks
8.1	None.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
8.2	None.
	Financial Implications
8.3	The overall cost to procure badges is £450 and is a one of cost that is managed within the Mayor's overall budget.
	Legal Implications
8.4	There are none.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.5	None.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.6	None.
	Procurement Implications
8.7	None.
	Community Safety Implications
8.8	None.

9.	Background documents Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	None.
10.	Appendices
10.1	None.
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Dan Kalley, Head of Governance and Democracy (Deputy Monitoring Officer), email: dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk