

## Report to the Policy and Resources Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Subject: Replacement of Mayoral Robe

### **Background:**

Due to the Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee not convening this month, I have been asked to present my report to the Policy and Resources Committee.

There are two key reasons necessitating the replacement of the current mayoral robe:

1. **Age and Material Composition:** The existing robe is over 100 years old and features a real fur trim. Given the council's commitment to vegan principles, the use of real fur is now deemed inappropriate.
2. **Presentation and Image:** Our current attire does not compare favourably with that of our fellow Cinque Port and Kent Town Mayors.

In November 2023, quotations for the replacement of all robes were obtained. During the budget workshop, it was proposed that the robes be renewed over a three-year period, with an allocated budget of £6,000. However, the final approved budget stands at £3,000.

The Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee recommended at their last meeting that local seamstresses be contacted for quotations on creating a new mayoral robe. Three seamstresses were approached, but only one responded, and a formal quotation has not been received. Additionally, there is concern that this approach may not fully address the second issue related to presentation.

### **Recommendation:**

In the expectation that new robes are likely to last a further 100 years and to ensure that we are able to avail ourselves of the current quotation (deadline has been extended to this meeting) it is recommended that the mayoral robe and two hats be purchased from Michaels, an established and reputable provider. This company has previously supplied the Town Clerk robe and is used by other Cinque Port towns.

Louise Bareham  
Town Clerk  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2024