

---

# Council



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Magna Carta Trust</b>	
<b>Paper No:</b>	<b>COU/SE/16/016</b>	
<b>Paper to and date:</b>	<b>Council</b>	27 September 2016
<b>Documents attached:</b>	<b>None</b>	

---

1. The Magna Carta Trust is a national charity, formed in the 1950s, which promotes and coordinates activities to raise the profile of the Magna Carta nationally and internationally. The Trust recently took the lead role in organising national events to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also has very strong links to the USA. As well as national bodies, trustees of the charity include council representatives of towns with a direct connection to Magna Carta, which include Bury St Edmunds.
2. The councils involved in the Trust each have two representatives, one being an annual ex-officio position for their Mayor/Chairman and the other being a longer-term appointment to provide continuity (which need not be a councillor). For many years, the 'other' representative for Bury St Edmunds has been Mrs Margaret Charlesworth (a former Mayor/councillor).
3. When the Trust was established, this nominating role for Bury St Edmunds was performed by the former Bury St Edmunds Borough Council and, in 1974, this role passed to St Edmundsbury (there being no town council at that time). However, technically, the trustee role relates specifically to *the town*, and its direct historic Magna Carta associations.
4. Membership of the Trust is always evolving and, therefore, there has been local consideration of whether this should be reviewed in relation to Bury St Edmunds. Specifically, now that it exists, whether the Town Council would be better placed to take on any local authority role, thereby:

- (i) re-establishing the direct link between the Trust and a council representing only Bury St Edmunds; and
  - (ii) raising the national profile of the Town Council, with it becoming part of a strong network of similar 'heritage' towns or cities (e.g. St Albans, Runnymede, etc).
5. At its June 2016 meeting, the Town Council considered this matter and resolved to ask the Borough Council to relinquish its role and seek permission to transfer it to the Town Council (which is in the gift of the Trust itself). There is a subscription to the Trust which is approximately £800 a year but, otherwise, the only direct resource contribution needed from the Town Council would be time and the travelling expenses for the couple of Trust meetings held each year in London. The Borough Council would meet the cost of the subscription for 2016/17. The precise timing of any resignation and transfer of roles before the start of the next municipal year would be a matter to be determined in conversation with the Trust and Town Council.
6. It should be noted that, were this request to be approved, the Borough Council would still be involved in the organisation of local Magna Carta events such as pageants, talks and other commemorations. For instance, although they were arranged with support from the Trust, Bury St Edmunds' own 800<sup>th</sup> celebrations in 2014 were organised by a local committee, with support from multiple partners including the Town Council. The Borough Council would therefore continue to be involved in such local projects irrespective of its role in the Trust. In view of this fact, and the request received from the Town Council, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the Borough Council:
- (1) resigns, by no later than 1 April 2017, its own membership of the Magna Carta Trust and thereafter no longer performs the nominating role for trustees from the St Edmundsbury area; and
  - (2) proposes to the Trust that this role passes to Bury St Edmunds Town Council, as requested by the Town Council itself.