

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Executive
DATE	24 April 2014
REPORT TITLE	Transfer of Plympton and Totnes Chains
Report of the	Democratic Services Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	None

Summary of report:

To consider a report which seeks to transfer ownership of the chain that previously belonged to Plympton St Mary Rural District Council ('the Plympton Chain') to Plymouth City Council. The report also seeks approval to negotiating the gifting of the Totnes Rural District Council Chain to Totnes Town Council.

Financial implications:

For insurance purposes, the Plympton Chain is currently valued at £6,260 and the Totnes Chain is valued at £16,065.

The annual cost to the Council of insuring these two chains is £300 per year. Therefore, if both Chains are ultimately gifted to the two councils, then this annual cost will be saved by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Plympton St Mary Rural District Council Chain ('the Plympton Chain') be gifted to Plymouth City Council;
2. That the Democratic Services Manager be given delegated authority, in consultation with the lead Executive Member for Corporate Services, to approach Totnes Town Council with a view to negotiating the gifting of the Totnes Rural District Council Chain ('the Totnes Chain') to Totnes Town Council.

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1. Background

The Plympton Chain

- 1.1 On 7 March 2014, the Chairman of the Council received a letter from the Lord Mayor's Parlour at Plymouth City Council. The letter asked (having received a request from the Chairman of Plympton Community Council) for South Hams District Council to consider a request to either make a permanent loan of, or gift, the chain that previously belonged to Plympton St Mary Rural District Council ('the Plympton Chain') to Plymouth City Council.
- 1.2 Before this time, during the second half of 2009, a similar request was made to the Council by the Plympton and District Civic Society. At that time, and upon learning of this request, Ivybridge Town Council also made a claim to the chain. This claim was made on the basis that Ivybridge was part of the previous Plympton St Mary Rural District Council and Ivybridge Town Council was an elected body whereas Plympton and District Civic Society was not.
- 1.3 As a consequence, the decision was taken at that time to retain the chain within the ownership of South Hams District Council, with it remaining on display in the Nash Room.

The Totnes Chain

- 1.4 A few years ago, Totnes Town Council made a request to be loaned the Totnes Rural District Council Chain. At the time, this request was agreed, subject to the chain being kept in a secure location and within a locked display cabinet. This loan arrangement has remained in place ever since.

2. Ownership of the Plympton Chain

- 2.1 Since Plympton St. Mary, Plympton Erle and Plympton Chaddlewood are all wards located within the boundaries of Plymouth City Council, it would seem a fair conclusion that the Plympton Chain ought to belong to Plymouth City Council rather than South Hams District Council.
- 2.2 The Council has also received confirmation from Ivybridge Town Council that it would now support the chain being gifted to Plymouth City Council, with it being made available to the Plympton Stannator to wear on ceremonial and other occasions throughout the year.
- 2.3 Having also been informed that the chain would be held under lock and alarm, it is now recommended that the Executive approve the gifting of the Plympton Chain to Plymouth City Council.

3. Ownership of the Totnes Chain

- 3.1 Whilst the loan arrangement remains in place and the Council has not received notification from Totnes Town Council that it would wish to be gifted the chain, it is now considered an opportune time for the Council to revisit this matter and approach the town council with a view to opening up negotiations regarding the potential for a permanent transfer of ownership.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 The risk management implications are shown at the end of this report in the strategic risks template.

5. Other Considerations

Corporate priorities engaged:	None
Statutory powers:	Local Government Act 1972.
Considerations of equality and human rights:	None directly related to this report.
Biodiversity considerations:	None directly related to this report.
Sustainability considerations:	None directly related to this report.
Crime and disorder implications:	None directly related to this report.
Background papers:	Letter to Cllr Carson from the Lord Mayor's Parlour at Plymouth City Council.
Appendices attached:	None

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	The loss of assets to the Council.	By proposing that the Chains be gifted to Plymouth City Council and Totnes Town Council respectively, the Council would lose the ownership of these assets.	1	1	1	↔	The Council would save the annual cost of insuring the chains and these probably ought not to belong to South Hams District Council.	Democratic Services Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔

