

January 31st 2023

The Chairman's Address

Thank you for joining by Teams to observe and comment at this ACTT Exec meeting today.

The ACTT continues to manage its own expenditure by choosing to hold Exec meetings virtually whenever possible. The 2023 AGM will be a hybrid meeting, but the Exec will seek to gather in person to manage and direct the meeting. Please let us know if your Charter Trustees can provide a room with IT support for such a meeting in September 2023.

Your precepts for the next financial year will have been submitted by now. Given the wide range of increased charges that most local authorities are facing there may be some intense local scrutiny of the CT Precepts. It's unlikely that any Charter towns have managed to seek a zero increase - do inform the Secretary if you have and share your experiences and rationale.

The next tranche of Levelling Up funding has been promised to some selected applicants - this is a good time to congratulate the Charter Towns of Ellesmere Port, Margate, Bournemouth & Poole and Worksop as they have secured much needed Govt funding (over £10m in most cases) to start to transform some areas of their historic industrial heritage and town landscapes. Well done to the local authority councillors at all these towns who have ably demonstrated that Unparished Towns and Cities are no less likely to get Levelling Up grants than any other local area or town in need of the Govt's helping hand.

Finally, may I remind all Town Mayors - as if you needed it - to make the most of the May Coronation. It is 70 years since the UK and your town or city has celebrated a Coronation. Look at what happened in 1953 and how your townfolk and Mayor celebrated, and make your event this year a time for you as Mayor, and your residents to remember. The Mayor of a Charter Trustee City or Town is in a privileged position - enjoy your tiring day and celebrate.

Cllr Jim Anderson BDC

Chair ACTT