**APPENDIX 8**

**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING 8th September 2015**

**ROBING AT MEETINGS OF FULL COUNCIL**

**1. Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 16th June the Governance and Procedures Committee supported a proposal from the mayor that robes should be worn again at council meetings. This was to emphasise the importance of the meeting and the role councillors are elected to play, and is in keeping with the tradition observed since time immemorial at the City Council, which appears to have fallen into abeyance around 2004/5. From time to time it is known that the mayor of the day dispensed with wearing their own ceremonial robes in very hot weather and this naturally extended to members of council, and the clerk.

1.2 In the event of members agreeing to reinstate the practice of wearing robes it would be sensible to continue the practice of allowing a hot weather dispensation at the Mayor’s discretion.

**2. Recision of a Decision**

2.1 Standing orders do not allow for a decision to be considered again within six months except where six members of council have signed a motion to that effect. This has not happened in this case, although several members have voiced their disquiet, and the practice has not been taken up again despite the committee decision. In order to allow the whole council to come to a position on this matter, members may wish to invoke their power under Standing Order 73 to suspend that standing order to allow this matter to be debated again within six months.

**3. Recommendations**

**3.1 That in accordance with standing order 73, Council resolves to suspend standing order 33 to allow the matter of wearing robes at meetings of council to be debated.**

**3.2 That Council resolves to endorse the decision made at Governance and Procedures Committee and affirms that robes should be worn as usual practice at meetings of the Council, unless the Mayor gives a dispensation because of extreme weather.**

Steve Kerry

Town Clerk