

Request

I kindly request your assistance in providing specific details about the mayor's expenses, costs, and funds raised for the last 5 years.

1. I want to request the costs (2024 predicted cost) and money raised for charity by the Mayor Making for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.
2. I am particularly interested in the number of people invited to the Mayor Making each year and the contributions or charges made to attendees, specifically elected members or council officers.
3. I would like to know the event's overall cost (also broken down into, i.e. travel and staff) to the council each year, the sponsorship it receives, and the money raised for charity.
4. I want copies of the minutes of meetings where the budget for the event was made and any communications regarding deciding on expenses related to the event.
5. I want the mayor's 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019 expenses. I would also like details of the number of activities and events by month, costs, expenses, staffing, food, and funds raised for charity.

Response

1. There is no money raised for the charity at Mayor Making. The only expense is flowers and refreshments in the parlour. In 2024 this amounted to £765.00.
2. The Mayor is allowed to invite 20 guests and the Deputy Mayor is allowed to invite 10 guests. No one is charged to attend. Mayor Making is part of the AGM so usually Councillors are in attendance at the Mayor Making ceremony part of the meeting, however they are not invited into the Mayor's Parlour for refreshments. Council officers are also welcome to attend the ceremony, but no contributions or charges are incurred.
3. Mayor Making is not an event but forms part of the Annual General Meeting for the Council. Any costs for arranging the meeting fall within the overall annual cost of council meetings and there are no individual costs – as there are no individual costs no information is held in relation to specific costs of the ceremony. The ceremony does not attract or receive sponsorship nor does it raise money for charity.
4. Mayor Making isn't an event, as it forms part of the Annual General Meeting and any refreshments etc is funded from the Mayoral Budget.
5. Mayoral Car (including attendant) –
2019 - £21928.00
2020 - £12852.00
2021 - £15816.00
2022 - £24672.80
2023 - £26200.80
Since July 2022, the Council lease an electric vehicle at a cost of £19484 per annum.
Mayor's Secretary Wage – £27334 per annum
Refreshments are broken down into financial years:
2019-20 - £1753.00
2020-21 - £122.00
2021-22 - £1001.00
2022-23 - £3918.00
2023-24 - £3654.00

The Charity is run by the Mayor's Charity Committee which sits outside the Council, however the Council contributes £10,000 to the Charity Committee on an annual basis.