



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) & the Director of Resources

South Outer Area Committee

Date: 3rd December 2012

Subject: Reappointment of Trustees to the Archbishop Margetson Trust Fund

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archbishop Margetson Education Trust Fund is seeking approval to reappoint its trustees. This trust fund is small but has a rich history. It dates back to the seventeenth century and was formed to support students in the area of Drighlington. It has been revitalised in recent years following the involvement of representatives of the local community.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval of the reappointment of the current group of trustees of the Archbishop Margetson Trust Fund. This group draws on representatives of Drighlington Parish Council and Drighlington Primary school, with Leeds City Council being represented by a local ward member, Councillor Gettings.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Archbishop Margetson educational trust fund has a long history with its origins dating from 1678 when James Margetson, the Archbishop of Armagh, made provision in his will for the ongoing support of the Free School that he had built in Drighlington. The Trust Fund in its modern form came under the auspices of Leeds

City Council following local government reorganisation in 1974. However, it became inactive for several years prior to local representatives of the community in Drighlington becoming involved and taking stewardship of the fund in 2009. They have been successful in attracting some new donations to this small fund, which currently amounts to £4k. The trustees aspire to finesse the stipulated purpose of the fund so that it will be more suitable for making regular awards and can actively support the school children of the area.

- 2.2 The current group of trustees were appointed in 2009. They included four representatives of the local community as nominated by the local ward members, and appointed for three years. Three of them were Drighlington Parish Councillors at the time, Arthur Thornton, Janet Scholes and Mike Rhodes. The other local representative was one from Drighlington Primary School, initially to be the Head Teacher, Sue Jackson. The fifth trustee is Councillor Gettings representing the City Council on the trust and appointed for a term ending on the date of the appointment of the successor or any time after the ordinary day of retirement as Councillor.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 The Trust Fund is seeking Leeds City Council's agreement to the reappointment of the current group of trustees.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 The appointment of the current group of trustees was agreed at the February 2009 meeting of this Area Committee and it is advised that this is the appropriate forum to consider their proposed reappointment.

5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As mentioned, the Trust also has aspirations to fine-tune the purpose of the Fund and the qualifying criteria that determine who can benefit from it so that it can better serve the community and fulfil its remit. The aim would be to make awards to children in the final year at Drighlington Primary Schools in recognition of merit, achievement or effort in the general curriculum of the school. If any child has shown particular talent in a specific field, awards may be made to develop those talents, if due to the financial situation of the family, they may not be developed to their full potential. Awards would be in the form of educational books or equipment to assist in the development of the talents of the recipient during their secondary education. It is envisaged that the school would nominate a short-list of five pupils with the trustees choosing two winners. Students will have had to attend the primary school for at least three years and have at least one parent or guardian who is resident in Drighlington.
- 5.2 Going forward, the Trust also aspires to change the nomination of trustees so that three are nominated by the Parish Council, one from the Primary School and a Ward Councillor to represent the City Council. It is understood that the Trust has discussed all these changes with the Charity Commission. Colleagues in Legal Services have contacted the Charity Commission seeking a view on these proposals and are awaiting a response. Once in receipt of this feedback, they will consult with Governance Services to determine the appropriate means of progressing these particular proposals. In the meantime, approval of the reappointment of the trustees is being sought under the established arrangements to allow the Trust to continue its activities.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Area Committee are requested to

- Approve the reappointment of the current trustees to the Archbishop Margetson Trust Fund, with the four local representatives serving for a period of three years.

Background Papers

Report to February 2009 meeting of South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee on the Appointment of New Trustees to the Archbishop Margetson Trust Fund