



## Report of the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer

### Member Management Committee

Date: 31 May 2007

### Subject: Future Governance of Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd Board

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

All electoral wards

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

## 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To agree the appointment process and to appoint elected member representation including the Chair to the new Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd Board.

## 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd Board was established when Leeds City Council took on ownership of the Theatre. The Board ensures the accountability of The Grand Theatre, City Varieties and Hyde Park Picture House as charities working to the Charities Commission guidelines.
- 2.2 The Board has up to now only been made up of Leeds City Councillors but The Charities Commission had expressed concern identifying that the theatres would benefit from a wider interest base. The Council also wished to give The Grand Theatre greater autonomy over its running following Phase 1 of the refurbishment work. Leeds City Council Executive board therefore commissioned a fundamental review.
- 2.3 Executive Board received a report in 2006 on the Future Governance of Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd. The report outlined the fundamental review of the current arrangements and proposed options for the future.
- 2.4 Executive Board agreed to the establishment of a new Board made up of five councillors and four independent members. It agreed to appoint new trustees against a skills matrix and to adopt and develop a new Board Manual.
- 2.5 Both the skills matrix and Board Manual were developed using Charities Commission best practice and the 'Nolan principles of good governance'. They identify the mix of skills the Board needs to maximise its effectiveness. These include finance, property, legal, learning, marketing, theatre. Applicants will register their interest using an

application form used by many boards and the applications will be assessed against the matrix to ensure a good balance of skills.

- 2.6 For the initial Board under the new arrangements the applications for the external independent trustees will have been received and so it will be possible to identify the gaps required to be filled by elected members.
- 2.7 Trustees will be appointed for a fixed term with the possibility of renewal for a further term if agreed by both parties. Appointments to this initial board however will have a staggered first term to ensure succession planning is possible. For example some will be appointed for one year some for two and some three.

### **3.0 Appointment Process**

- 3.1 The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state that where a request to make an appointment is received then determination of this will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:
- the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
  - the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
  - the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.
- 3.2 Where an organisation is deemed to have met one or more of these criteria, Members are requested to allocate it to one of the following categories:
- Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council's strategic objectives and community leadership role
  - Community and Local Engagement – not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from an area or ward perspective.
- 3.3 The appointing body for Strategic and Key Partnerships is the Member Management Committee. The appointing body for Community and Local Engagement is the appropriate Area Committee.
- 3.4 Members are asked to consider whether appointments should be made to this body and to consider which category the appointments would fall into.
- 3.5 If Members are of the view that these appointments fall into the Strategic and Key Partnerships category and that appointments should therefore be made by the Member Management Committee then Members are asked to make appointments to five positions, one of which should be the Chair.

### **4.0 Chair of The Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd Board.**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Chair of the Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd Board should be the relevant Executive Board Member.

### **5.0 Elected Member Appointments**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the remaining four appointments should be determined by the Member Management Committee.

5.2 Members are asked to appoint to the allocated places.

5.3 The Board is looking for cross representation of parties. One member from the Conservative, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Green Group, plus the Chair - the relevant Executive Board Member. It is also looking for people whose skills, expertise, interest or experience best fit the skills matrix. In particular the Board is looking for trustees with a good understanding and experience of learning, educational attainment and community engagement to support the vital new learning programme; public relations and marketing; property management and business management. Other skills are also welcome but are represented by others on the Board.

5.3 One member will be appointed for 1 year, 2 members will be appointed for 2 years and 2 members (including the chair) will be appointed for three years. This will allow the Board to develop a rolling programme of appointments rather than all trustees leaving at the same time.

## **6.0 Board Manuals**

6.1 Copies of the Board Manual including the skills matrix are available from the report author for any interested members

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Members are asked to:

- agree the appointments process to the Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd Board
  - appoint the Chair and four Members to the Board.
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