

Report of: The City Solicitor

Report to: Outer South Community Committee

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For decision

Reappointment of Trustees to the Archbishop Margetson Trust Fund

Purpose of report

1. 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.

Main issues

2. 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 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.
3. In 2009 LCC made an agreement with the Charity Commissioners to appoint trustees to the Trust in accordance every 3 years.
4. The current group of trustees were appointed in 2009 and then reappointed in 2012. 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, 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

Corporate considerations

5.

a. Council policies and city priorities

The reappointment of the current group of trustees was agreed at the December 2012 meeting of South (Outer) Area Committee and it is advised that this is the appropriate forum to consider their proposed reappointment.

b. Legal implications, access to information and call in

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 attended the primary school for at least three years and have at least one parent or guardian who is resident in Drighlington.

Conclusion

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

Recommendations

7. Members of the Community 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.