



---

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

### Member Management Committee

Date: 30 October 2007

Subject: Appointment of Independent Members to the Grand Theatre and Opera House Limited Board

---

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

---

### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek approval to appoint independent members to the Board.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 The Executive Board agreed to develop the Board of Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd to include four independent trustees to sit alongside the five elected members.

### 3.0 Process

3.1 Advertisements were placed in the local press and on various online publications alongside an editorial about the success of Phase 1 and the plans for the future. This produced ten applications covering a wide range of experiences. The skills matrix, which had been agreed by Executive Board to be used for appointments, was applied to the formal application forms. One application did not meet the basic probity requirements but the other nine offered a range of skills, background and experience. They also offered a spread across the equality issues of race, gender and age although there was no candidate with a disability.

The successful candidates would be appointed from their application, interview and references. Formal interviews were held, the panel being made up of the Board Chair, Councillor Procter, Councillor Gettings and Andrew Macgill. One candidate did not attend. Two people were selected as they satisfied the criteria and offered important skills to the Board including significant knowledge of theatre management and operation and legal expertise.

## **4.0 Next Steps**

- 4.1 A new advertisement and editorial which includes the recent successful HLF bid will appear shortly in the press. Financial sector advertising has been included to strengthen representation of this skill. Equality issues on the Board will also need to be addressed as part of the interview process as currently there is only one woman on the Board. The skills matrix has proved valuable.

## **5.0 Appointments**

- 5.1 It is proposed to appoint, with immediate effect, Paul Isles as independent trustee.

Paul Isles has many years experience in theatre, has an excellent reputation and his experience will help with the re-visioning of the venues as part of the major capital projects.

- 5.2 Unfortunately a number of procedural difficulties have occurred in relation to the second candidate which have yet to be resolved.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 That Member Management Committee accept the appointment of Paul Isles for 1 year in the first instance and the Committee notes the re-advertisement of the trustee opportunity.