

# Amendments to Elected Member Appointments to Outside Bodies

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Report of: City Solicitor

Report to: General Purposes Committee

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## Brief summary

This report seeks consideration of amendments proposed to the Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies last considered by the Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024:

- The Robert Salter Charity
- Environmental Protection UK
- Leeds Playhouse Theatre Board

Determination of the appointments lies within the remit of General Purposes Committee and is based on specific criteria set out in the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules and supports the aims of the Best City Ambition to work with all communities as a team for Leeds and by supporting what the Council and its partners are focussing on during the 2024/25 Municipal Year to improve outcomes.

## Recommendations – General Purposes Committee is requested to:

- a) Consider the current position in respect of the Robert Salter Charity as detailed in paragraphs 5 to 11 and Appendix 1 of this report and determine the Council's approach to future appointments to this Outside Body.
- b) Note that Environmental Protection UK has ceased to operate and this Outside Body will be removed from the schedule of organisations to which Council appoints elected Members.
- c) Note the information in respect of the Leeds Playhouse Theatre Board at paragraphs 15 to 18 of this report and determine an appropriate appointment to the Board.

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report presents three matters for consideration by the Committee:
  - a) The Robert Salter Charity
  - b) Environmental Protection UK
  - c) The Leeds Playhouse Theatre Board
- 2 Under the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, General Purposes Committee is requested to review the list of notified Outside Bodies (and 'Other Bodies') on an annual basis and to determine whether the Council should make/continue to make an appointment to those bodies. Throughout the year, General Purposes Committee may consider any changes necessary to the appointments.
- 3 The process by which this is undertaken is detailed in the Appointment to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules.
- 4 The current schedule of Outside Bodies and 'other bodies' to which this Committee makes appointments was last considered and approved on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and the process of advising all Elected Members and organisations of the appointments was completed shortly afterwards.

## The Robert Salter Charity

- 5 The Robert Salter Charity was established "in the former Township of Pudsey, in the County of West Yorkshire, founded by will of Joseph Salter proved at Wakefield on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1897 and comprised in a trust deed dated the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1898". Councillors A McCluskey, D Seary and S Seary were appointed to the Charity by General Purposes Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- 6 On 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the Labour Group advised that their current appointment, Councillor A McCluskey, will not take up the seat on the Robert Salter Charity. Additionally the Labour Group sought to cede that seat to the Local Independent Party and proposed the nomination of Councillor T Smith to that seat.
- 7 The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules set out at para 3.5 that -  
*"3.5 Should a political group wish to cede a place to another political group or where an appointment of an individual other than an elected Member is being considered, then such appointments must be made by either the General Purposes Committee, or if delegated, by the Community Committee"*.
- 8 However, on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Robert Salter Charity, notified the Council that the Board of Trustees met on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and amended its governing documents. A copy of the 2024 Governing Document is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 9 The Committee is advised that the Charity now seeks only **one** Leeds City Council representative, where previously three were sought. Paragraph 5 of the governing Document refers to the LCC appointment as a 'Nominative Trustee" and sets out the following:  
*"5. Nominative Trustees. The Nominative Trustee shall be a person who through residence, occupation or employment, or otherwise have special knowledge of the area of benefit and except at first as hereinafter provided shall be appointed by Leeds City Council for a term of four years. Each appointment shall be made at a meeting convened and held according to the ordinary practice of the council. The chairman of the meeting shall cause the name of each person appointed to be notified forthwith to the Trustees or their clerk. The person appointed may be but need not be a member of the council."*

- 10 In view of the local focus of the Robert Salter Charity, General Purposes Committee may wish to consider whether the Charity remains a “strategic and key” appointment to be determined by this Committee, or whether having reviewed the amended Governance Documents, the Charity could fall within the remit of a “local and community engagement” appointment to be delegated to the relevant Community Committee – in this case the Outer West Community Committee. Alternatively, the Committee may wish to defer consideration of the appointment category until the review of Outside Bodies requested at the July 2024 meeting is completed.
- 11 Paragraph 3 of the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules sets out the categories as follows:
- Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council’s strategic functions, priorities 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 or ward perspective.
- 12 General Purposes Committee is requested to consider the current position in respect of the Robert Salter Charity and determine the Council’s approach to future appointments to this Outside Body.

### **Environmental Protection UK**

- 13 On 4th September 2024, the Authority received confirmation that Environmental Protection UK, an outside body to which the Council appoints elected Members, had been formally wound up.
- 14 The Committee is requested to note this information and that the schedule of Outside Bodies will be amended accordingly. The Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment & Green Space was appointed to EP UK on 24<sup>th</sup> July 24 and has been informed that this outside body has been wound up.

### **The Leeds Playhouse Theatre Board**

- 15 At its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024, General Purposes Committee appointed Councillor J Dowson and Councillor C Campbell to the two seats on the Leeds Playhouse Theatre Board.
- 16 On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the Head of Democratic Services received a request from the Liberal Democrat Group to nominate Councillor B Gettings of the Local Independent Party to the Liberal Democrat seat on the Leeds Playhouse Theatre Board.
- 17 Paragraphs of the Appointment to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state:
- 3.4 Where a political group has been allocated a position to fill, then that position must be filled by Elected Members from the political group that has been allocated the place.*
- 3.5 Should a political group wish to cede a place to another political group or where an appointment of an individual other than an elected Member is being considered, then such appointments must be made by either the General Purposes Committee, or if delegated, by the Community Committee with that authority.*

- 18 General Purposes Committee is requested to note the request received in respect of the Leeds Playhouse Theatre Board and determine the Council’s appointment to this Outside Body.

### What impact will this proposal have?

19 Elected Members should normally fill all available appointments and all appointments are subject to annual change unless otherwise stated in the constitution of the external organisation. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Council Meeting.

### How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

20 Determination of the appointments is based on specific criteria set out in the Outside Bodies Procedure Rules and supports the aims of the Best City Ambition to work with all communities as a team for Leeds and by supporting what the Council and its partners are focussing on during the 2024/25 Municipal Year to improve outcomes.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

21 In preparing this report, engagement has been undertaken with representatives of the Robert Salter Charity, Environmental Protection UK and relevant elected Members.

### What are the resource implications?

22 There are no resource or value for money implications as a result of this report.

### What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

23 There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

### What are the legal implications?

24 Full Council has delegated responsibility to General Purposes Committee for:

- determining which outside bodies should have Member representation and, by determining the category of each such outside body, determining how such appointments should be made; and
- making appointments to outside bodies categorised as Strategic and Key Partnership.

25 This report relates to a Council function and therefore, is not available for call-in.

## Options, timescales and measuring success

### What other options were considered?

26 The alternative option of not to consider the appointments at this point in the Municipal Year has been discounted as, in the case of the Robert Salter Charity, this would leave a vacancy and not support the aims of the Best City Ambition.

### **How will success be measured?**

27 In making appointments to Outside Bodies, the Council will put Elected Members at the heart of partnership working with local communities, Third Sector and Voluntary Sector partners, allowing greater engagement and involvement in discussions on work towards common goals.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

28 The matters resolved at this meeting will take effect as soon as possible after this meeting and will be implemented by officers within Democratic Services.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Robert Salter Charity 2024 Governing Document

### **Background papers**

- None