
Council

22nd October 2013

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Housing and Heritage) – Cllr Ruane

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Place

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Nomination of Elected Members for the Board of Culture Coventry

Is this a key decision?

No.

Executive Summary:

In 2012, Coventry City Council engaged in a review of the city's cultural trusts, in partnership with Coventry Heritage and Arts Trust (CHAT), Coventry Transport Museum (CTM) and the Belgrade Theatre Trust.

In October 2012, Council approved recommendations arising from the above review, including the recommended establishment of a new company limited by guarantee to take over the existing premises, employees, assets, liabilities and contracts of CHAT and CTM. In January 2013, Culture Coventry was formed as this new company. In July 2013, the Interim Board of Culture Coventry approved the planned TUPE transfer of staff from CHAT and CTM to Culture Coventry on 1st August 2013 and assumed responsibility from this date for the operations of facilities previously managed by CHAT and CTM.

In May 2013, the Council approved the appointment of Elected Members to the Boards of CHAT and CTM. This report seeks approval for the appointment of five Elected Members to the new Board of Culture Coventry.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to appoint the following Elected Members to the Board of Culture Coventry for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2013/14:

Councillor Gannon
Councillor Hetheron
Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Skipper

List of Appendices included:

None.

Other useful background papers:

None.

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No.

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No.

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 22nd October 2013.

Report title: Nomination of Elected Members for the Board of Culture Coventry

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 In 2012, Coventry City Council engaged in a review of the city's cultural trusts, in partnership with Coventry Heritage and Arts Trust (CHAT), Coventry Transport Museum (CTM) and the Belgrade Theatre Trust. The economic climate and public spending cuts arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) meant that savings to the Council from the grants and service fees to all three Trusts needed to be found.
- 1.2 In October 2012, Council approved recommendations arising from the above review, including the recommended establishment of a new company limited by guarantee to take over the existing premises, employees, assets, liabilities and contracts of CHAT and CTM. In January 2013, Culture Coventry was formed as this new company. In July 2013, the Interim Board of Culture Coventry approved the planned TUPE transfer of staff from CHAT and CTM to Culture Coventry on 1st August 2013 and assumed responsibility from this date for the operations of facilities and management of collections previously managed by CHAT and CTM.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Two governance options have been considered:
- (a) No Elected Members are to be appointed to the Board of Culture Coventry
 - (b) Elected Members are to be appointed to the Board of Culture Coventry
- 2.2 Option A - No Elected Members are to be appointed to the Board of Culture Coventry
- 2.2.1 Culture Coventry is a company limited by guarantee, with charitable status. The Chief Executive currently reports to an Interim Board of Trustees, pending the recruitment of a Full Board (anticipated in January 2014). Following the Cultural Trust Review undertaken in 2012, Coventry City Council awarded transitional grant funding for 2013/14 of over £1.7m and grant for 2014-2017 of over £2.7m per annum to the organisation (now Culture Coventry) formed to manage the combined functions of CHAT and CTM. Coventry City Council is therefore both a major investor in Culture Coventry and the owner of the vast majority of the collections managed by the organisation. By not appointing Elected Members to the Board of Culture Coventry, the management of the City's investment and collections on loan to the museums would be conducted completely at arm's length, with no formal governance links between the bodies at the most senior level.
- 2.3 Option B - Elected Members are to be appointed to the Board of Culture Coventry (Recommended)
- 2.4.1 As outlined in Option A above, Coventry City Council is both a major investor in Culture Coventry and the owner of the vast majority of the collections managed by the organisation. By appointing Elected Members to the Board of Culture Coventry and through the appointment of the Chair of the Business, Enterprise and Economy Scrutiny Board (3) as Deputy Chair of Culture Coventry, the management of the Council's investment and collections on loan to the museums would be supported through direct input from Elected Members to the Board. This option secures governance links between the bodies at the most senior level and is therefore the recommended option.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Discussions considering the appointment of Elected Members to the Board of Culture Coventry have been held with Cabinet Member (Housing and Heritage), the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Executive of Culture Coventry, the Board of Culture Coventry and senior Council officers.
- 3.2 As the recommended appointment of Elected Members to the Board is reflective of previous appointments to Outside Bodies (specifically to CHAT and CTM), no wider consultation has been undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If the recommendation is approved, Elected Members would be formally appointed to the Board of Culture Coventry at the first Board meeting to follow that of the Council (anticipated Thursday 24th October 2013).

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications of the recommendations in this report.

5.2 Legal implications

None.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The recommended proposal will provide Elected Members on to the Board of Culture Coventry. It will contribute to the Council's core aims to:

- *Make Coventry an attractive and enjoyable place to be* – by sustaining and joining up the current cultural offer for the City, maintaining access to the City's collections, heritage and programmes and building on momentum from Coventry as a co-host city for the London 2012 Games.
- *Ensuring that children and young people are safe, achieve and make a positive contribution* – through the ongoing educational and community cultural offers of the Trust.
- *Encouraging a creative, active and vibrant city* – by sustaining access to the collections, services and expertise of the current offer, and through sustaining and further developing partnerships with wider arts and heritage partners.
- *Developing a more equal city with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods* – cultural experiences and events are widely recognised to positively bring communities together and to contribute to developing and defining a sense of place. Sustaining the cultural offer secures the positive benefits to communities presented by the uniqueness of the offer.

In addition to the above contributions to the Council's core aims, it is anticipated that Culture Coventry will contribute to the achievement of wider Council objectives through providing better customer service, greater efficiency and sustainable delivery.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

If the recommendation is approved, the management of the Council's investment and collections on loan to the museums would be supported through direct input from Elected Members to the Board. In the period prior to the formal appointment of Elected Members to the Board, the Chief Executive of the Council will remain as a Director on the Interim Culture Coventry Board and Elected Members will attend meetings of the Board of Culture Coventry by the standing invitation of the Chair. Quarterly review meetings will also be held between Council officers and the management team of Culture Coventry, and the Cultural Trust Review Project Group will continue to meet on a regular (minimum fortnightly) basis.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The proposal will require Elected Members appointed to the Board of Culture Coventry to attend regular Board meetings in their capacity as Trustees of the organisation.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

A key goal of the Cultural Trust Review was to protect the cultural offer for visitors and customers of the city's museums and cultural destinations. The recommendation within this report relates to the governance arrangements for the implementation of the review outcomes and does not present any equalities considerations further to those already considered in the review.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

A key goal of the Cultural Trust Review was to protect the cultural offer for visitors and customers of the City's museums and cultural destinations. The recommendation within this report relates to the governance arrangements for the implementation of the review outcomes, specifically the appointment of Elected Members to the Board of Culture Coventry as the operations of the museums and management of the City's collections are passed from CHAT and CTM to the new Trust. The Interim Board will therefore move to a Full Board with Elected Member representatives (as previously appointed to CHAT and CTM).

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

David Nuttall, Service Manager – Sports and Arts

Directorate:

Place Directorate

Tel and email contact:

024 7683 2362

david.nuttall@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
David Cockroft	Assistant Director, City Centre & Development Services	Place	16.09.13	17.09.13
Phil Helm	Place Directorate Finance Manager	Resources	16.09.13	17.09.13
Rosalyn Lilley	Senior Solicitor	Resources	09.09.13	09.09.13
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Resources	16.09.13	17.09.13
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Phil Helm	Place Directorate Finance Manager	Resources	16.09.13	17.09.13
Legal: Rosalyn Lilley	Senior Solicitor	Resources	09.09.13	09.09.13
Executive Director: Martin Yardley	Executive Director	Place	11.10.13	11.10.13
Member: Councillor Ruane	Cabinet Member (Housing and Heritage)		11.10.13	11.10.13

This report is published on the council's website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings