

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 11 December 2017

Report Title: Appointment of Grants Advisory Panel Member

Report By: Chris Barkshire-Jones, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer

Purpose of Report

To appoint a new member of the Grants Advisory Panel

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To appoint Maria Gonet to the Grants Advisory Panel with immediate effect for a period of three years**

Reasons for Recommendations

The membership of the Grants Advisory Panel is now seven due to a member resigning. The assessment of grant applications takes place in January 2018. As two members assess the same applications it is helpful to have an even number of members.

Background

Under a scheme dated 13 January 2011, Hastings Borough Council became 'the Trustee' to the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Trust.

The scheme advocated that there must be a Grants Advisory Panel with no fewer than four and not more than eight members.

The members of the Grants Advisory Panel must be appointed by the trustee on the basis of their knowledge and experience of the voluntary and charitable sector and in particular their knowledge of the voluntary and charitable sector in the area of the Borough of Hastings.

The Grants Advisory Panel must consider and make recommendations in respect of:

- a) the criteria for making grants which the trustee adopts from time to time.
- b) the content and format of grant application forms.
- c) the advertisement of availability of assistance by way of grant from the charity.
- d) individual applicants for grants and proposals of the trustee for making grants.

Process

Earlier in the year the Council put a news release in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer and the Hastings Independent Press in order to attract interest from members of the public to volunteer to be members of the Grants Advisory Panel. Three applications were received. The applicants were interviewed by the Chair of Charity Committee and the Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel, Andrew Colquhoun. Andrew was able to give helpful information on the work of the Grant Advisory Panel. All three candidates had experience of the voluntary sector and gave very strong performances at interview. Subsequently Maria Gonet was offered a position on the Grants Advisory Panel subject to the Charity Committee formally appointing her.

Next Steps

Maria Gonet will meet the other members of the Grants Advisory Panel as soon as possible after being formally appointed by the Charity Committee. The Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel will facilitate this process with the Chief Legal Officer.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No

Anti-Poverty

No

Additional Information

None

Officer to Contact

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