

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 9 December 2013

Report Title: Constitutional Amendment - Grants Advisory Panel

Report By: Christine Barkshire-Jones
Chief Legal Officer

Purpose of Report

To inform Charity Committee of the Grants Advisory Panel's reconvened AGM. To seek Charity Committee's approval of the suggested changes to the GAP Constitution. To seek Charity Committee's approval to instruct the Chief Legal Officer to advertise for up to three new members to be recruited to the Grants Advisory Panel during 2014.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. Charity Committee note and approve the re-appointment of Sandra Garner to the Grants Advisory Panel.**
- 2. Charity Committee note and approve the re-appointment of Dick Edwards to the Grants Advisory Panel.**
- 3. That the Committee adopt the amended Constitution as detailed in the report.**
- 4. Charity Committee note the suggestions made by the Grants Advisory Panel in relation to training and assistance to members.**

Reasons for Recommendations

Members of the Grants Advisory Panel re-convened their AGM on 19 November to undertake necessary functions in line with their Constitution.

AGM

1. In compliance with Paragraph 5d of the Grants Advisory Panel's Constitution and Terms of Reference, Sandra Garner (Chair) and Dick Edwards (Vice-chair) resigned. The decision on who the first two members to resign would be was made alphabetically.
2. It was immediately proposed and seconded that Sandra Garner and Dick Edwards be re-appointed to the panel for a term of 4 years.
3. In compliance with Paragraph 7c of the Grants Advisory Panel's Constitution and Terms of Reference, it was proposed and seconded that Sandra Garner be elected to be Chair of the Panel. Dick Edwards was elected as Vic-Chair and Steve Manwaring as Secretary.

Constitution and Terms of Reference

4. Discussions took place about the term of appointment and whether this should be altered and whether there needed to be a finite number of years of service. This would need an amendment to the current Constitution and Terms of Reference. The Panel decided that a term of appointment would be for a period of 3 years. The members would be able to serve two terms, a maximum of 6 years. Concerns were raised whether recruitment to the panel if unsuccessful coupled with the finite term of service would leave the Panel vulnerable to not having enough members to function. It was suggested that in that case previous members could re-apply to join the Panel after they had served 2 terms (6 years) and retired for a period of 1 term (3 years)
5. The point was also raised that 2 of the existing members had been re-appointed for a period of four years. In 2015 the other existing members should retire. If changes were made to the Constitution amending the period of appointment the 3 members could only be re-appointed for a period of 3 years in 2015. This was seen as a disadvantage. To overcome this Paragraph 5d of the Constitution could be amended as follows;
 - (i) Membership of the Panel is for a term of 3 Years. A retiring member may be appointed for one further term of office up to a maximum of 6 years. A retired member who has been retired for at least 3 years may re-apply if invited to do so by the Charity Committee. Of the first appointed members (who retire in 2015) who wish to be re-appointed, they may be appointed for a four year term. If a member wishes to resign he or she should give at least 28 days notice to the Secretary. Any member appointed to replace a member resigning mid-term shall be appointed for the balance of the unexpired term of office of the resigning member. This shall apply also in relation to a member appointed to replace a member expelled under this paragraph.

Training and Assistance

The Grants Advisory Panel suggested that members could be given some training on how the Panel operates. This can be undertaken on member induction training.

The point was also raised that members could be given further information on recommendations by the Grants Advisory Panel if a member/members of the panel attended any meetings where these were being discussed. The Chief Legal Officer will ensure that the Panel are invited.

Chairs Briefing

This is take place as and when needed.

Recruitment

The Grants Advisory discussed the recruitment of up to three more panel members. They believed that it was a good time to advertise and recruit new members to ensure that knowledge and experience can be passed on to new members.

Request

The Panel requested that the Chair of Charity Committee thank Kevin Stower for all his advice and support given to the Grants Advisory Panel.

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

Background Information

Officer to Contact

Christine Barkshire-Jones
cbarkshire-jones@hastings.gov.uk
01424 451731

