

Outside Body Appointment – Rochester Bridge Trust

Final Decision-Maker	Democracy and General Purposes Committee
Lead Head of Service	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
Lead Officer and Report Author	Ryan O’Connell, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Classification	Public
Wards affected	None directly, though the Rochester Bridge Trust is a Landowner across multiple wards.

Executive Summary

The term of office of the current Council representative, Derek Butler, on the Rochester Bridge Trust is coming to an end in May 2023, and the Council needs to renew or make a new appointment.

Purpose of Report

Decision

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

That Derek Butler’s appointment to the Rochester Bridge Trust as the Council’s nominated Trustee be renewed.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Democracy and General Purposes Committee	29 March 2023

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1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure • Safe, Clean and Green • Homes and Communities • A Thriving Place <p>We do not expect the recommendations will by themselves materially affect achievement of corporate priorities. Though making the right appointment to the Rochester Bridge Trust will ensure the Council is well represented.</p>	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Cross Cutting Objectives	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage is Respected • Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced • Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved • Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected <p>We do not expect the recommendations will by themselves materially affect achievement of cross-cutting objectives. Though making the right appointment to the Rochester Bridge Trust will ensure the Council is well represented.</p>	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Risk Management	Risks related to this decision are minimal, but by considering the appointment fully the Committee manage the risk of an inappropriate appointment being made.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Financial	None directly.	[Finance]

Staffing	None	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Legal	<p>The Rochester Bridge Trust is an outside body that falls under the remit of the Democracy and General Purposes Committee as set out in the Constitution in Part B4 – Appendix 2.</p> <p>The appointee will be a Trustee of the Rochester Bridge Trust including all the duties and liabilities of being a Trustee.</p>	Interim Team Leader (Contentious and Corporate Governance)
Privacy and Data Protection	None	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Equalities	None	[Policy & Information Manager]
Public Health	None	[Public Health Officer]
Crime and Disorder	None	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Procurement	None	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Biodiversity and Climate Change	None	[Biodiversity and Climate Change Officer]

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The Rochester Bridge Trust contacted Democratic Services on 21 February 2023 to request a new nomination before their Trustee meeting on 22 May 2023, as the term of the current nominated member from the Council, Derek Butler, expired on 31 May 2023. The term of office would be for four years from 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2027.

2.2 The Rochester Bridge Trust stated the following:

Derek has been a diligent trustee and has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Trust to date, particularly in his role as Junior Warden for the past two years. He informs me that he would very much like to be re-nominated for a further term if that is agreeable to the Council. The Trust has recently introduced a three-term maximum so this would be Derek's final period as a trustee. If he is re-nominated, he is almost certain to be elected as the Senior Warden for the next two years.

- 2.3 Democratic Services contacted Derek Butler who confirmed he would like to be nominated for the position. With that confirmation Democratic Services contacted all Councillors to ask if a Councillor also wished to be put forward. Whilst there was some interest in the role, no Councillor put themselves forward for nomination.
- 2.4 It is therefore recommended that Derek Butler be appointed as the Council's nominated trustee on the Rochester Bridge Trust.
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3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Option 1 – Appoint Derek Butler as the Council's nominated trustee.
- 3.2 Option 2 – Consider whether another nominee, though none have been forthcoming to date, would be more appropriate.
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4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 for the reasons set out above.
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5. RISK

- 5.1 Risks are considered in the issues table above.

6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 6.1 Covered in paragraph 2.3
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7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 7.1 The Rochester Bridge Trust will be informed of the Committee's decision.
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8. REPORT APPENDICES

None

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None