

Appointment of the Chair of Make It York

Summary

1. This paper proposes the appointment of a new Chair for Make It York following the resignation of Jane, Lady Gibson at the end of her term of office.

Recommendations

2. The Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee is recommended to:
 - Place on record the Council's thanks to Jane, Lady Gibson for her distinguished contribution to the city in her role as the first Chair of Make it York.
 - Appoint Mr Greg Dyke as a director of Make It York in order that he may serve as the new Chair.

Reason: To comply with the company's Articles of Association.

Background

3. Make it York is a company limited by shares wholly owned by the Council. It has the following objectives:
 - Increased profile for the city as a destination for living, visiting, studying, and doing business.
 - Increased business investment in the city – as measured by growth in existing business and inward investment by companies locating into the city.
 - Increased visitor spend – as measured by increase in average length of stay and average spend per visitor.
 - A National / International profile of high quality cultural events, driving the development and implementation of the city's cultural strategy and promoting cultural wellbeing.
4. The governance structure provides for a board of directors and a Shareholder Committee. The directors are appointed by the Council, the decision to appoint being within the remit of Council or

Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee. The directors, who are unremunerated, are responsible for:

- Setting the strategic direction of Make It York; keeping it under constant and constructive critical review and ensuring that it fulfils its purpose: to develop and promote York as a great place to live, visit, work, study and do business.
 - Commissioning specialist expertise to advice and support the company including legal services, auditors and other expertise as required.
 - Bringing fresh and independent thinking to the Board whilst being a team player and supporting a culture of collective responsibility once the Board has taken a decision.
 - Practising the highest standards of governance (in line with the Companies Act 2006).
 - Working with the executive team to enhance the profile of Make It York and to promote its achievements.
5. As a publicly-owned business, Make It York (MIY) is required to maintain the highest standards in relation to its governance. This applies to the appointment and conduct of its Board of Directors and staff, as well as to the make-up of the Board itself. As a primary means of achieving this, MIY follows the seven Nolan Principles in relation to public service: Selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
6. Jane, Lady Gibson, the first chair of Make It York, following its establishment in 2015, has now stood down having made a major contribution to establishing the company and driving forward its key objectives.

The Recruitment Process

7. At the outset of the recruitment process for the new Chair, a person specification was set out. This called for:
- An exceptional and engaging individual, with considerable authority, experience and intellect.
 - An understanding of the role of non-executive Chair, significant strategic insight, and an openness to new and innovative ways of tackling our challenges.
 - A national and international mind-set was specified together with the highest standards of integrity and honesty.

- A knowledge of and an affinity with York, and a passion about its future potential.
 - An ability to work collaboratively across a wide range of stakeholders and access to relevant national and international networks.
8. An open, objective and rigorous recruitment process was undertaken supported by specialist head-hunters, Perrett Laver. The role was advertised through the Guardian jobs. Over 100 individuals were involved and these were shortlisted down to a final four. Following an interview with a panel of city stakeholders Mr Dyke emerged as the preferred candidate.

Greg Dyke

9. Mr Dyke holds non-executive roles with the London Film School (Chair), Trafalgar Entertainment Group (Chair), BAFTA (Vice President) and was previously Chair of the Football Association, the Ambassador Theatre Group and the British Film Institute amongst others. His executive career included spells as Chief Executive of London Weekend Television and Director General of the BBC. He knows the city well having been Chancellor of the University of York for 11 years, and has very senior-level experience of working across a number of sectors.

Options and Analysis

10. It is open to the committee to accept or reject the candidate. Should the committee reject the candidate a fresh recruitment process will be required. It is recommended that the candidate is appointed in view of their outstanding credentials and their selection through a rigorous process.

Next Steps

11. Make It York or its professional advisors will be responsible for registering the appointment of Mr Dyke as a director of Make It York with Companies House having undertaken relevant statutory checks.
12. Mr Dyke will fill in a register of interests, advising Make It York of any conflict that he can foresee.
13. The Managing Director of Make It York will arrange a board induction process to take place in the first three months after appointment.

Council Plan

14. Make It York contributes to a number of Council Plan themes including Well-paid jobs and an inclusive economy, and safe communities and culture for all.

Implications

15. There are no additional implications beyond those set out in the report.

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	Report Approved:	✓	Date:	12.11.19.	
Wards Affected:				All	✓

Abbreviations

BAFTA - British Academy of Film and Television Arts

MIY - Make It York