

From: Ben Watts, General Counsel
To: Selection and Member Services Committee, 29 June 2022
Subject: Rochester Bridge Trust: Proposed Change of Arrangements
Status: Unrestricted

1. Introduction

- a) The Rochester Bridge Trust owns and maintains the two A2 bridges and the service bridge at Rochester. On behalf of Kent County Council, the Committee appoints two Trustees to serve on the Court of Wardens and Assistants. These are currently Ms Sarah Hohler (Member) and Mr Matthew Balfour.
- b) The Trust are proposing some changes to the arrangements for nominating Trustees and are seeking the Committee's approval, on behalf of the Council, before proceeding.

2. The Proposed Changes

- a) The changes are set out in full in the letter from Sue Threader, the Bridge Clerk (see Appendix 1) and the scheme showing the amendments (see Appendix 2).
- b) In sum they are:
 - i. Term limits.
 - ii. Transitional provisions to prevent a wholesale change of Trustees.
 - iii. Extension of the term of Sarah Hohler by one year
- c) The intention behind extending the term in iii above is to avoid the KCC nomination coming in the same year as an election, which could lead to a delay in nomination. As discussed at previous meetings, the Rochester Bridge Trust is an example of an outside body where KCC is not required to appoint an elected Member. The extension of the term would therefore be unaffected by the election process.

3. Recommendation

The Selection and Member Services Committee is asked to:

- i. Approve the changes to the Trustee nomination process sought by the Rochester Bridge Trust as set out in Appendices 1 and 2; and
- ii. Agree to extend the term of Ms Hohler as Trustee by one year so that her current term will expire on 31 May 2026.

4. Background Documents

None.

5. Report Author and Relevant Director

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