



Ref: SEPT/hcw/863

29 March 2022

By Special Delivery

Mr David Cockburn
Head of Paid Service/Corporate Director of Strategic & Corporate Services
Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dear Mr Cockburn

**Wardens and Assistants of Rochester Bridge in the County of Kent (the Rochester Bridge Trust)
Consultation on proposed change to nomination rights**

Kent County Council nominates two trustees to serve on the Court of Wardens and Assistants ("the Court"). Your current nominees are Cllr S.V. Hohler and Mr M.A.C. Balfour.

The Court intends to make some changes to the arrangements for the nomination of trustees. As these changes will affect the nomination rights of Kent County Council, **the Trust is required to seek the Council's consent.**

Limiting the number of terms

Under the Trust's current Charity Commission Scheme, there is no limit to the number of terms a trustee may serve. The Court wishes to ensure appropriate renewal of membership by introducing a limit on the number of terms. The Charity Governance Code for Larger Charities and Charity Commission best practice guidance discourage unlimited trustee terms. The Court intends to introduce the following changes:

- To limit the number of terms any trustee can serve to three, save that one further term may be served following a break in service of at least two years;
- To implement transitional arrangements to avoid wholesale change of trustees, such that any trustee already serving their third or greater number of terms may be re-nominated for one additional term.



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Avoiding trustee nominations in KCC election years

It has often proved challenging for the Council to deal with trustee nominations in Council election years, leading to gaps in service on the Court. To avoid this in future, it is suggested that the current term of Cllr Hohler be extended by one year. This will avoid nomination in 2025 and mean that her current term would expire on 31 May 2026. **This change also requires the Council's consent.**

Impact on current trustee appointments

Should the Council (and other affected nominating bodies) consent to the changes above, then the impact on your current appointees would be as follows.

Cllr Hohler is serving her third term as trustee. When her current term expires on 31 May 2026 (if this is extended to avoid election years as suggested above) she would be eligible to be nominated for one more four-year term to 31 May 2030.

Mr Balfour is serving his first term as trustee. When his current term expires on 31 May 2023 he would be eligible to be nominated for up to two further four-year terms.

Deadline for response

It is the intention that this matter will be formally considered by the Court at its meeting in May and therefore I would be grateful to receive your response **by 29 April 2022.**

With the copy of this letter sent by email I have attached a copy of the Charity Commission Scheme of governance with highlighted changes to show the intended amendments. If anything is not clear or you wish to discuss any aspect of the proposal, please do contact me by email on the address above.

Yours sincerely

Sue Threader (Mrs)
Bridge Clerk (Chief Executive)

CC Andrew Tait, Kent County Council (by email)