

<b>Committee:</b> Policy and Resources Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 20 February 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Appointment to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Kerry Nicholls, Town Clerk's Department	

### **Summary**

This report sets out the background to the appointment of external candidates to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London and requests that Members consider reappointing the Rt Hon the Lord Paul Boateng for a further term as a City of London Corporation Governor of the Museum.

### **Recommendation**

The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to consider the reappointment of Rt Hon the Lord Paul Boateng to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London for a 14-month term expiring 31 March 2021.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. Under the provisions of the Greater London Authority Act 2007, the Greater London Authority and the City of London Corporation each appoints nine Governors to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London. Of the City's nine appointments, six are elected by the Court of Common Council and three are external appointments, one of which is made available to London Councils to make a nomination. The Court of Common Council has delegated authority to the Policy and Resources Committee to appoint external candidates to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London.
2. Following consideration of the Code of Practice of the Board of Governors of the Museum of London by its Audit and Risk Management Committee, the Board of Governors of the Museum of London resolved at its meeting on 6 December 2017 that, in order to ensure the regular change of Board members, it be requested that the terms of office for all Museum Governors be limited to a maximum of two four-year terms but that in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the appointing bodies, a Governor's term of office might be extended beyond eight years. This was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 22 February 2018 and the Code of Practice of the Board of Governors of the Museum of London was amended to reflect this.

#### **Current Position**

3. Lord Boateng's appointment to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London concluded on 21 January 2020 and there is a vacancy for a City of London

Corporation appointee to the Board. Lord Boateng was first appointed to the Board of Governors of the Museum on 17 December 2009 for a two-year term. He was subsequently reappointed by the Policy and Resources Committee for two four-year terms on 8 December 2011 and 21 January 2016.

4. In agreeing the reappointment of Lord Boateng at its meeting on 8 December 2011, the Policy and Resources Committee also resolved that to increase accountability, transparency and City involvement in the selection of external Members:
  - All vacancies for external governors be openly advertised in accordance with the Nolan Principles;
  - A short-listing process be undertaken which includes the Director of the Museum of London and the Chair of the Board of Governors;
  - Interviews be conducted by a panel which includes the Director of the Museum of London, the Chair of the Board of Governors, a representative of the Policy and Resources Committee and possibly an independent assessor; and,
  - Nominations continue to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Should the reappointment be agreed at this time, the above selection process would not apply to this vacancy.

5. Both the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Museum of London and the Director of the Museum of London are keen to retain Lord Boateng's expertise on the Board of Governors at this critical time in the development and progression of the New Museum Project and have requested that the Policy and Resources Committee use its discretion to agree Lord Boateng's reappointment to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London for a 14-month term expiring 31 March 2021 due to these exceptional circumstances.
6. Lord Boateng is a Labour Party politician and former Member of Parliament for Brent South (1987-2005). He became the United Kingdom's first mixed-race Cabinet Minister in May 2002 when he was appointed as Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He later served as British High Commissioner to South Africa (2005-2009). Before entering Parliament, Lord Boateng served as Member for Walthamstow on the Greater London Council. In his professional life, Lord Boateng is a qualified barrister specialising in civil rights, having worked as a partner of BM Birnberg & Co. He has served on the Board of the English National Opera (1984-1997) and English Travelling Opera (1993-1997).
7. During his time as a Governor, Lord Boateng has been instrumental in the Museum achieving a £5m Heritage Lottery Fund Stage One grant with the Museum aiming to secure this grant through a successful Stage 2 application in the next few months. Lord Boateng's focus on helping the Museum to diversify and connect with audiences across London has also made a significant contribution to the work of the Museum. There have been a number of new Greater London Authority Governor appointments during 2019 and the reappointment of Lord Boateng would help ensure stability and continuity of the Board at this time. The proposed 14-month reappointment would also align this Governor term with other board positions due to become vacant, allowing for efficiencies to be made in recruiting

Governors with the skills, expertise and profile required for the successful delivery of the New Museum Project. If the reappointment is not approved it will be some time before the Museum can make a recommendation to the City of London Corporation and it is preferred that the Board benefit from an active, engaged and diverse Board member rather carry a Governor vacancy.

8. The Town Clerk has consulted with the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Museum of London and the Director of the Museum of London on the current vacancy for a City Corporation-appointed Governor.

## **Conclusion**

9. A vacancy has arisen on the Board of Governors of the Museum of London for a City of London Corporation appointee. Following consultation with relevant parties, members are asked to consider the proposed reappointment of The Rt Hon the Lord Boateng for a further 14-month term expiring 31 March 2021.

## **Appendices**

- None.

## **Kerry Nicholls**

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