

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	24/11/2014
<b>Subject:</b> Keats Foundation Representation	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Culture, Heritage, & Libraries	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Culture, Heritage &amp; Libraries Committee are currently appointed as City Corporation representatives on the Trustees of the Keats Foundation. Given the separate nature of this charity, it would be more appropriate to nominate other Committee Members in this capacity.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agree the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be stood down as representatives of the Culture, Heritage &amp; Libraries Committee on the Board of the Foundation, and that nominations be sought from the Membership of the Committee for alternatives, with a vote taken if necessary</li> </ul>	

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The Keats Foundation is a charity which was established in 2010 to “encourage enjoyment and understanding of Keats’s poems, letters, life and times and to inspire new generations of young poets to fulfil their creative ambitions.” They “support educational initiatives based at Keats House, and more widely at festivals, readings, conferences and other Keats-related events”.
2. The Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee nominates two representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Foundation and in May 2014 the Committee decided that these should be the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the day.

#### **Current Position**

3. The charity was established with help and support from the City Corporation, in the expectation that it would become a fund raising body to help Keats House. In fact the Foundation has come to focus its attention primarily on Keats the poet, while using the House as a venue for events, and is not in a position to provide significant income support for the running of the House. After some years of providing administrative support to the Foundation from City officers, it was agreed in 2013 that this would cease and during recent months negotiations have taken place to ensure financial and administrative separation between the Foundation and the Corporation.

4. In these circumstances, it is not felt to be appropriate to delegate the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to be the Committee representatives on the Board of Trustees.

### **Proposals**

5. It is recommended that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be stood down as representatives of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee on the Board of the Foundation, and that nominations be sought from the Membership of the Committee for alternatives, with a vote taken if necessary.

### **Implications**

6. Under this arrangement, the Committee will retain a link with the Foundation, but with recognition that its agenda is somewhat different from that of the House. The link will be close enough to ensure that the Foundation's programme can be developed to the benefit of the House where appropriate.

### **Appendices**

- None

### **David Pearson**

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