

Committee(s) Policy and Resources	Dated: 21 January 2016
Subject: Appointment of City of London Corporation Governor to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision

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 Boateng to a further term as City of London Corporation Governor of the Museum. It also suggests that Members agree to reappoint serving external Governors subject to the views of the Chairman of Governors and the Director of the Museum.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to

- Consider adopting a principle whereby serving Governors may be reappointed to a further term subject to the views of the Chairman of Governors and the Museum Director;
- Consider the reappointment of the Rt Hon the Lord (Paul) Boateng to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London for a four-year term concluding on 21 January 2020.

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 appoint 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 the external appointments is made available to London Councils to make a nomination.
2. 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. External candidates appointed to the Board of Governors by the City of London Corporation are typically appointed for terms of four years.

Current Position

3. Lord Boateng's appointment to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London has recently concluded and therefore 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 of London in September 2009 for a two year term. He was reappointed by the Policy Committee to a four-year term in December 2011 and this term concluded in December 2015.
4. In December 2011 your Committee resolved that,

- 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 Chairman of the Board of Governors;
 - Interviews be conducted by a panel which includes the Director of the Museum of London, the Chairman 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.
5. Given that reappointments are not catered for in your Committee's December 2011 resolution, members may wish to consider the adoption of a principle concerning reappointments, whereby your Committee agrees to a straightforward reappointment of a serving external Governor subject to the views of the Chairman of Governors and the Director of the Museum.
 6. Both the Chairman and the Director are keen to retain Lord Boateng's expertise on the Board and therefore ask that the City Corporation consider his reappointment for a further term. This would require that the first three steps outlined above be waived. Both the Chairman and the Director are clear that, should the City agree to a waiver, that this would not form a precedent for future City appointments to the Board.
 7. The steps outlined in your Committee's December 2011 resolution will be retained and implemented in the event of new appointments to the Board of Governors.
 8. Lord Boateng is a British Labour Party politician and former Member of Parliament for Brent South (1987-2005). He became the UK'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).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The Town Clerk has consulted with the Chairman 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

10. 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 four-year term.

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