

Committee:	Date:
Gresham (City Side) Committee	3 November 2017
Subject: Gresham College Council Appointments	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Greg Moore, Principal Members' Services & Committee Manager	

Summary

At the 2 June 2017 meeting of the Gresham (City Side) Committee, consideration was given to the link between membership of the Committee and the City Corporation's representation on the Gresham College Council. This was in view of the perceived potential conflict of interest with regard to Members' dual roles as funders and Directors of the college.

Following the Committee's deliberations, the College was informed of the proposal to separate the two roles such that election to the College Council was considered directly by the Court of Common Council. The City Corporation's Outside Bodies Sub-Committee also considered the matter and asked that the Gresham (City Side) Committee reconsider and confirm their proposed approach, prior to final consideration and onwards submission to the Court of Common Council. This report consequently provides a brief update on the position and asks Members to confirm their preferred approach.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the appointment of representatives onto the Gresham College Council and confirm the timetable for implementation of any change.

Main Report

Gresham College Council – Appointments

1. The Gresham College Council meets approximately five times a year to approve financial matters relating to the academic programme that is proposed to it by the College's Academic Board.
2. The Mercers' and the City Side can each appoint up to four Directors to the Council of the Gresham College for a four-year term. The Council itself can then also appoint further Directors.

Background

3. The Court of Common Council previously agreed that City Side appointments to the College Council should be Members of the Court. Although they do not

necessarily need to be members of the Committee, this has previously been the case.

4. At the February 2017 meeting, Members noted that, as the College becomes more active and looks to expansion, more visible segregation from an external viewpoint was required between Members in their roles as funders and as directors of the College. As such, the proposal was for the Court of Common Council to nominate Directors from the wider Court Membership (not from the Gresham Committee) via a phased approach.
5. Members were asked to confirm these arrangements at the June 2017 meeting and determined that the principle of separating the two roles at the earliest opportunity should be agreed, with future Corporation appointments to the College Council to be drawn from the wider membership of the Court (not to include members of the City Side Committee).
6. However, there was a degree of ambiguity as to the timing of this transition and when the new arrangements should be phased in. Clarity was also sought over the position of those Gresham (City Side) Committee Members who were currently members of the College's Working Parties, in the hope that they might continue in those roles despite stepping down from the College Council.

Current Position

7. The Outside Bodies Sub-Committee considered the proposal at its meeting on 11 October 2017 but was unclear as to the proposed timetable and precise details of the change. Consequently, that Sub-Committee has asked the Gresham (City Side) Committee to reconsider the matter and confirm its intentions.
8. Separately, the Gresham College Council has expressed some concern as to the timing of any changes to the City Corporation's appointments. This is in view of the fact that they are in the process of recruiting and interviewing for six new Gresham Professors and have expressed a particular desire to ensure that existing City Corporation Council members, who are familiar with the College and what is required of Professors, form part of the interview panel. These interviews are expected to take place in February 2018.

Consideration

9. The Committee is consequently asked to consider and confirm that it would wish to separate the appointments process for the Gresham (City Side) Committee and the Gresham College Council, with future City Corporation appointments to the College Council to be drawn from the wider membership of the Court (not to include members of the City Side Committee).
10. Should this be confirmed, Members are also asked to confirm the proposed timeline for implementation of this change. Given the College's preference for existing appointees to remain in place until February 2018, the Committee may wish to consider tasking the Town Clerk to ensure arrangements are in place for the transition in March of that year.

Appendices

- None.

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