

Committee:	Date:
Gresham (City Side) Committee	17 May 2019
Subject: Decisions made under Delegated Authority	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Greg Moore	

Summary

This report provides details of three decisions taken under delegated authority since your last meeting, concerning the appointment of two Professors and the refurbishment of the Gresham Almshouses.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Appointment Of Gresham Professors Of Astronomy And Music

1. At your meeting on 13 May 2005, you decided that all City-side appointments of the Gresham Professors viz Divinity, Astronomy, Music and Geometry be dealt with, as and when necessary, in accordance with Delegated Authority procedures, which involve the Town Clerk taking a decision in consultation with your Chairman and Deputy Chairman.
2. Following the resignation of Tom Service, a vacancy was created for the Professor of Music post. In addition, the tenure of the previous Professor of Astronomy, Joseph Silk, had also come to an end and a successor needed to be appointed.
3. Appointment panels were established, including City Side representation, and interview processes were undertaken.
4. The Academic Registrar of Gresham College advised that the Panel to appoint the Professor of Music, which included Dr Giles Shilson from the City Side, recommended that Professor Marina Frolova-Walker FBA be appointed as the Gresham Professor of Music for a three-year period from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2022, with possible renewal for an additional year.
5. The Academic Registrar of Gresham College also advised that the Panel appointing the Professor of Astronomy, which included Ms Wendy Mead from the City Side, recommended that Katherine Blundell OBE be appointed as the Gresham Professor of Astronomy for a three-year period from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2022, with possible renewal for an additional year.

6. Both appointments were subsequently ratified under delegated authority arrangements.

Gresham Almshouses Refurbishment

7. At the March 2019 meeting of the Gresham (City Side) Committee, the Chamberlain provided an update in respect of the Gresham Almshouses Refurbishment Works. Members were advised that the costs for the works due to be carried out were higher than anticipated and, as a result, there was a shortfall in the budget. This shortfall amounted to £150,000; however, the relevant works had previously been budgeted for and, over the past three years, £70,000 of the allotted budget had not been spent. As a consequence, taking this underspend in to account, the shortfall amounted to £80,000.
8. The Chamberlain advised that he and officers within the Department of Community and Children's Services had been working together to investigate the reasons behind the increased costs. This information had now been obtained and, if Members of this Committee were content, a request could be put before the Finance Committee for their approval.
9. The Committee agreed that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Gresham (City Side) Committee should be apprised of the necessary information and their initial approval sought before the request was made to the Finance Committee. It was agreed this decision should be taken under delegated powers.
10. The report was subsequently signed off and submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration under urgency procedures. An oral update on the outcome of this process will be provided at your 17 May 2019 meeting.

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