

Committee(s) General Purposes Committee of Aldermen	Date(s): 10 July 2020
Subject: Report of Action Taken: Outside Body Appointment: Sir John Soane's Museum (Trustee Representative of the Court of Aldermen)	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Lorraine Brook, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Court of Aldermen, in accordance with Standing Order No. 42 (Court of Aldermen).

Recommendation:- That Members note the decision taken in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Order No.42 to approve the re-appointment of Alderman Vincent Keaveny to serve as a Trustee of the Sir John Soane's Museum for a further five-year term with immediate effect (to expire in June 2025).

Main Report

Background and reason for urgency

- (i) Alderman Vincent Keaveny was appointed by the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen to serve as a Representative Trustee (on behalf of the Court of Aldermen of the City of London) of the Sir John Soane's Museum on 19th May 2015, with his term of office taking effect in June 2015.
- (ii) As the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen was not scheduled to take place until 10th July 2020 and the appointment expired in June, the appointment had to be considered in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's urgency procedures to ensure that the Trustee appointment was confirmed without delay and to minimise any implications for the continuation of the Museum's business.
- (iii) Alderman Vincent Keaveny was eligible to be re-appointed for a further five-year term as a Trustee and, upon expiry of his first five-year term of office, expressed a desire to be re-appointed given his roles as Senior Independent Director and Chair the Museum's Audit and Risk Committee. A re-appointment would ensure on-going stability in the senior Board roles at the Museum during this very difficult time following the outbreak of Covid-19.

- (iv) Trustee Appointments are generally made for a term of five-years and may be renewed once for a further term of the same length.
- (v) Other expressions of interest in the appointment of a Trustee Representative of the Court of Aldermen were sought from amongst all members of the Court of Aldermen and none were received.
- (vi) On 19th June 2020, in accordance with Standing Order No.42, the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, approved the re-appointment of Alderman Vincent Keaveny to serve as a Trustee of the Sir John Soane's Museum for a further five-year term with immediate effect (to expire in June 2025).

The Sir John Soane's Museum

- (vii) The Sir John Soane's Museum is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport through a three-year funding agreement. It is a registered charity (no. 313609) governed by a Board of Trustees in accordance with the Sir John Soane's Museum Order (1969), which incorporates the provisions of Sir John Soane's original Act of Parliament of 1833 by which the Museum was established. The Trustees are responsible for the general management and control of the Museum and for the appointment of the Director.
- (viii) In 1833 Soane negotiated an Act of Parliament (3^o Gul.IV, Cap.iv) to settle and preserve the house and collection for the benefit of 'amateurs and students' in architecture, painting and sculpture. On his death in 1837 the Act came into force, vesting the Museum in a board of Trustees who were to continue to uphold Soane's own aims and objectives. The 1833 Act was superseded in 1969 by The Charities (Sir John Soane's Museum) Order (1969 No.468), revised in 1996, 2003, 2011 and 2012.
- (ix) As stipulated in the 1833 Act and the 1969 Charity Order, the Board of Trustees is made up of four Life Trustees and five Representative Trustees from five organisations: the Royal Society, the Court of Aldermen of the City of London, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Royal Society of Arts, and the Royal Academy of Arts. In 2011, following consultation with the Charity Commission and the DCMS, the order was amended to allow the Trustees to expand the Board by up to four at any one time.

Conclusion

- (x) Members are asked to note the decision taken in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Order No.42 to approve the re-appointment of Alderman Vincent Keaveny to serve as a Trustee of the Sir John Soane's Museum for a further five-year term with immediate effect (to expire in June 2025).

Lorraine Brook

Town Clerk's Department / E: lorraine.brook@cityoflondon.gov.uk / T: 020 7332 1409