

Committee:	Date:
Gresham Committee (City Side)	26 May 2023
Subject: Gresham College Council and Gresham Working Party Appointments	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Zoe Lewis	

Summary

This report asks Members to consider the appointment of representatives on the Gresham College Council and to the Gresham Working Party.

The Gresham Committee is responsible for appointing up to four Directors to serve on the Council of Gresham College. Appointments are made for four-year terms. There is one existing vacancy to be appointed to and in addition Deputy Keith Bottomley and Deputy Christopher Hayward intend to stand down from their positions on the College Council. Therefore, there are three vacancies to be appointed to at this meeting. The Committee is asked to consider making appointments to these vacancies, in accordance with the requirements of the College's Articles.

Separately, the Committee also appoints four Members to serve on the Gresham Working Party, which acts from time-to-time on behalf of the Joint Grand Gresham Committee (chiefly in relation to the negotiation of funding agreements).

Recommendation

Members are asked to: -

1. Consider the appointment of representatives on to the Gresham College Council;
2. Note the Committee's long-standing arrangement whereby the Chairman (or such other Member as he may nominate in his absence) shall serve as one of the College Council's Vice Chairs and act as the City Side's "voting Member" where required;
3. Consider the appointment of representatives on to the Gresham Working Party; and
4. Endorse the standing delegated authority arrangements in respect of the Gresham Working Party (paragraphs 17 – 18).

Main Report

Background

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.
3. The Court of Common Council has resolved 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 and it is a matter for the Committee to determine how it wishes to appoint in this context.
4. The College's Articles of Association also require both the Mercers' Company and the City Corporation (through its Gresham Committee) to nominate one each of their number to act as the "Voting Member" for each Side. It is the long-standing practice of the Corporation, confirmed by extant resolution, that this is the Chairman of the City Side (or, in the Chairman's absence, the Deputy Chair or such other Member of the City Side as he may nominate). The two voting Members also serve as the Vice-Chairs of the College Council.
5. Separately, the Committee also appoints four Members to serve on the Gresham Working Party, which acts from time-to-time on behalf of the Joint Grand Gresham Committee (chiefly in relation to the negotiation of funding agreements).

Current Position: College Council

6. The current College Council appointments made by the City Side are as follows:-
 - Deputy Christopher Hayward (second term, expiring 2024)
 - Deputy Edward Lord (first term, expiring 2025)
 - Deputy Keith Bottomley (first term, expiring 2026)
 - Vacancy
7. The College's revised Articles provide that each Director, including all serving at the date of adoption of the Articles (i.e. 31 August 2004) shall be appointed for a term of four years ("first term"), and can then be re-appointed for a further four years at the discretion of the Mercers' or the City Side, as the case may be, subject only to where a Director reaches the age of 75 years, he or she can only complete their term of office if approved by the Gresham College Council on an annual basis.
8. A recent amendment to Article 32 of the Articles of Association also allows that, in exceptional circumstances, the term of office of a Director may be extended beyond the requisite period, subject to the agreement of Council and for a maximum of two years and to be reviewed annually. For instance, this extension was employed in respect of Deputy Tom Hoffman's previous tenure, allowing him to serve ten years.
9. It is suggested that the Committee determines to appoint to the vacant position on the College Council and to the vacancies created by Deputy Keith Bottomley

and Deputy Christopher Hayward standing down from their positions on the College Council.

10. It should also be noted that all Gresham Committee (City Side) Members are eligible to serve on the College's appointment and interview panels and College Council membership is no longer required for this.

Gresham Working Party

11. The City Side also traditionally appoints four Members to act on its behalf at any meetings of the Gresham Working Party as required. The Working Party is a sub-body of the Joint Grand Gresham Committee (JGGC) and Terms of Reference for the Gresham Working Party are set by the JGGC as follows:
 - i) *The membership of the Working Party is agreed by the JGGC from time to time.*
 - ii) *The Clerk to the JGGC is the Clerk to the Working Party.*
 - iii) *The Working Party deals with matters referred to it for detailed consideration and recommended by the JGGC (or exceptionally by the Chairman of the City Side and the Master of the Mercers' Company under the urgency procedure).*
 - iv) *Where a matter is referred to the Working Party, authority is also given to consult and engage such professional advisers as the Working Party thinks appropriate and to agree fee arrangements with these advisers, using the urgency procedures as necessary.*
 - v) *On completion of its investigations, the Working Party will report its conclusions to the JGGC together with its recommendations for further action. If time is of the essence, the recommended action may be reported directly to the Chairman of the City Side and the Master of the Mercers' Company for immediate action under the urgency procedures. The action taken will then be reported to the next meeting of the JGGC, for the record, in the usual way.*
12. The Working Party's primary purpose over the past two decades has been to lead on funding negotiations with Gresham College. With this in mind, at its November 2018 meeting (when the most recent funding negotiations were getting underway), the Gresham Committee (City Side) agreed to prevent potential conflicts of interest by ensuring a division such that Members did not serve on both the College Council and the Gresham Working Party.
13. However, it is perhaps pertinent to note that, where funding arrangements have been recently approved, there is likely to be little activity for the Working Party in the following period and the scope of potential conflict is reduced accordingly. There are no meetings of the Working Party scheduled and a funding timeline for the next negotiation process has been drawn-up which should obviate the need for any meetings.
14. Noting this, when previously appointing the Working Party, the Committee has been minded at times to permit the Chairman or Deputy Chairman to continue to serve on the Working Party as well as taking up a place on the College Council.

This was also, in part, to ensure that at least one of the City Side's Chairman or Deputy Chairman was represented on the Working Party.

15. The membership of the Gresham Working Party for the past year was:
 - Deputy Simon Duckworth
 - Wendy Mead
 - Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
 - Vacancy
16. Expressions of interest are sought to fill the four vacancies accordingly.
17. In terms of executing the decisions of the Working Party, it should be noted that, while every effort is made by the Clerk to arrange meetings of the Working Party so that recommendations can be made to the JGGC, this is not always possible or practical. From the City Side's point of view, recommendations of the Working Party may need the early endorsement of not only this Committee, but other Committees and, on occasion, the Court of Common Council. For those reasons, it may be necessary to use Delegated Authority/Urgency Authority procedures in accordance with Standing Order No. 41.
18. Members are therefore asked to agree, consistent with the usual practice over the past several years, that delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chair, to enable such other authorities as may be required in respect of Gresham Working Party matters to be obtained in an expeditious manner when necessary.
19. Members are also asked to note that the JGGC does, from time-to-time, also establish very specific task-and-finish groups where it determines not to use the larger Gresham Working Party. For instance, in recent years, an ad hoc "Flag Working Party", comprising two Members from each side, was established to meet and discuss flag designs for the Royal Exchange, which were agreed and the flags produced now fly in rotation above the Royal Exchange.

Conclusion

20. The appointment of Members to the Gresham College Council and the Gresham Working Party are matters for Members of this Committee to consider. With a vacancy arising on the College Council and Deputy Keith Bottomley and Deputy Christopher Hayward standing down from their positions on the College Council, Members are asked to consider whether and whom they would wish to appoint to these vacancies. Some considerations to help inform Members' decisions are set out in the report above.

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