

<b>Committee:</b> Outside Bodies Sub-Committee	<b>Date:</b> 18 October 2016
<b>Subject:</b> St Andrew Holborn Charity and Stafford's Charity Merger	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Sacha Than, Committee and Members' Services Officer	

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the proposed merger of the St Andrew Holborn Charity and Stafford's Charity. In July 2016 the Director and Clerk to the Trustees of St Andrew Holborn Charity and Stafford's Charity wrote to the City of London Corporation to inform Members of the proposed merger and to ask for comments, see Appendix one. As the City of London Corporation is a Stakeholder of St Andrew Holborn, it is in this capacity that Members are invited to comment on the proposed merger.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that Members consider the proposed changes and their impact upon the City's rights of nomination clause 8(1) of the draft Scheme, and consent or object to the proposals.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The St Andrew Holborn Charity and Stafford's Charity at present are two separate Charities that are managed by the same administrative team, they support similar projects and have Trustees in common. The Trustees of the charities have decided that it would be in the best interest of the Charities and beneficiaries to merge which will lead to a streamlining of administration with no loss and a potential increase in grant funding going forward.
2. A merger Committee has been set up which consists of the two chairmen of the Charities and a Trustee from each Charity. The Charity Commission have given their consent for the merger to take place. The proposal for the new Charity Scheme is attached to this report, see appendix 2.

#### Current Position

3. At present the City of London Corporation appoints two Trustees to the St Andrew Holborn Charity, the current Trustees are:
  - John Fletcher
  - Jeremy Simons

4. Following receipt of the letter from the Director and Clerk to the Trustees of St Andrew Holborn Charity and Stafford's Charity, the views on the proposed merger were sought from the two current Trustees.
5. Mr Simons confirmed that he is a City nominee to St Andrew Holborn Charity, and is also a Trustee of Stafford's Charity, but not in a City capacity. Mr Simons noted that the City does not nominate Trustees to Stafford's Charity.
6. Mr Fletcher commented that he has been supportive of this merger was part of the working group of Trustees from both charities to put these proposals together.
7. At present both the City and Camden appoint two trustees each to St Andrews Holborn and none to Stafford. Under the new proposals both will only appoint one, so the City will retain the same proportional interest from a Local Authority perspective. Though its overall influence might be slightly diluted, the amount of money it will be able to "influence" will increase with the contribution from Stafford. The City should not be compromised by these proposals providing the appointed Trustee has the commitment and local knowledge to represent the interests of the City residents and organisations who are eligible to benefit from the Charities.
8. The Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department has had sight of the proposal and requested further clarification from the Charities on how the proposed Scheme will be completed i.e. which of the City Corporation nominated Trustees would continue as the City Corporation's nominated Trustee on the Board, and their term of office, and whether the Charities intend that the other City Corporation nominee continue as a co-opted Trustee until the end of their current term. The Charities responded that it has been proposed that one of the current nominated Trustees will be co-opted for the remainder of their term and the other will continue to be nominated. The decision on which of the Trustees will be the nominated Trustee would be agreed by discussion with the two currently nominated Trustees.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Letter received from the Director and Clerk to the Trustees St Andrew Holborn Charity and Stafford's Charity

Appendix B – The proposal for the new Charity scheme.

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