

<b>Item No.</b> 15.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 19 July 2011	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Council Representation on Potters Fields Park Management Trust	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		Riverside Ward	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Transport, Environment and Recycling	

## **FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

This report recommends that the Cabinet give consideration to the Council's representation on the Potters Fields Park Trust Management Board. This representation has not been reviewed since a decision by the then Executive in 2005. A review is therefore timely, particularly given the high profile this park will have in the run up to the London Olympics in 2012. I ask the Cabinet to consider the Council's two representatives on the Park's management board and to agree that this be reviewed on annual basis in future as part of the Appointments to Outside Bodies report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Cabinet note the background to the Potters Fields Park Trust and the Council's representation on its Management Board
2. That the Cabinet agree two representatives of the Council to sit on the Potters Fields Park Trust Management Board
3. That in future these appointments are included in the annual Appointments to Outside Bodies report considered by Cabinet.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4. Potters Fields Park is a public green space situated on the south bank of the River Thames. Due to its location in a metropolitan area and in sight of Tower Bridge and City Hall, it is a popular and well used park for local people and tourists alike.
5. The management of Potters Fields Park was transferred to the Potters Field Park Management Board following a decision by the then Executive on 8 March 2005. Since that time, the park has been managed by the board on behalf of the Potters Field Park Trust.
6. At this time, the Executive decided that the London Borough of Southwark representative on the trust should be a local ward councillor. Potters Fields Park is in Riverside ward, and so the Council's representative since that time has been from this ward. A second representative of Southwark Council was also permitted when the Trust was constituted. This role has been taken by a council officer, and is currently fulfilled by the Chief Executive.

7. In December 2005, Council Assembly agreed to enter an 'Agreement to Lease' which committed the Council to leasing the area of metropolitan open land known as Potters Fields to the Potters Fields Management Trust. The Trust was established in the form of a company limited by guarantee, and agreed a memorandum and articles of association.
8. The Trust's articles of association do not state how the Council's representatives should be appointed, and so this decision rests with the Council. The Council's representatives will become Directors of the Trust and the Trust will therefore be responsible for registering the changes.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

9. Potters Fields Park has increasingly been recognised as an open space of strategic importance to the borough because of its location on the South Bank and its popularity with local people and tourists alike.
10. The need to balance the needs of local residents with those of less frequent visitors such as tourists and businesses who wish to make use of the park's iconic location has long been a challenge for both the Park Trust and Southwark Council.
11. The park's location and level of use means that it cannot be viewed as park purely for local residents. While it is an important local open space and one of the few in the area, its iconic location and use by people from the whole of Southwark and beyond means that it should be seen as one of the key strategic sites in Southwark.
12. The Greater London Authority (GLA) have expressed an interest in using Potters Fields Park as a 'live site' during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in the summer of 2012. Subject to planning permission being granted, the 'live site' would have a capacity of 4,500 people, who will come to Potters Fields Park to watch Olympic and Paralympic events on big screens and take part in other activities provided on site.
13. There are a number of other significant events planned for the area during the Olympics and in the run-up to them that will also impact on Potters Fields Park. Tower Bridge will be a major focal point as a key London landmark and will be specially lit to mark the Olympic Games. The Diamond Jubilee will be marked on 3 June 2012 with a 1,000 strong flotilla that will sail along this stretch of the River Thames.
14. The focus that will be on the park during this period will therefore further increase visitor numbers and require significant input from Southwark Council to ensure that the park is protected and public safety maintained.
15. Ensuring the Council is appropriately represented on the board of the Park's management trust during this period is therefore important.
16. The Council's constitution states that the Cabinet should make appointments to outside bodies in connection with functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet, and all other appointments should be made by the council assembly, a committee, or officer.

17. Appointments to Outside Bodies for which the Cabinet are responsible are considered at the first Cabinet meeting of each municipal year. The political group whips are consulted and invited to submit nominations for the various outside bodies on which the Council has representation. Currently, the Council's representation on the Potters Fields Park Trust is not included in this process.
18. Given the strategic importance of Potters Fields Park and its increased exposure during 2012, it is therefore proposed that the Council's representation on the Potters Fields Park Management Board should be an annual decision for the Cabinet and should be considered along with the Appointments to Outside Bodies on an annual basis.
19. The Appointment to Outside Bodies report was agreed by Cabinet on 19 June 2011. On this occasion, the Cabinet are therefore invited to indicate which representatives they would like to appoint for 2011/12. This decision will then be revisited on an annual basis by Cabinet as part of the Appointments to Outside Bodies.

#### **Community impact statement**

20. The local community will continue to be represented on the Park Trust board by representatives of the Shad Thames Residents Association and the Fair Street Tenant Management Organisation.

#### **Resource implications**

21. There are no resource implications of this change as the Council's representation on the board is not included in the list of roles for which councillors receives Special Responsibility Allowances.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

##### **Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance**

22. Under Article 43 of the Potters Field Park Trust Articles of Association, Southwark Council is entitled to appoint two Directors to the Board of the Trust. The history of how those appointments are made and the Council procedures are set out in the main body of the Report.
23. The decision that one of the Directors should be a ward councillor was an Executive decision and therefore requires a Cabinet decision to reverse it.
24. If the Cabinet decide to replace the ward councillor with a Cabinet member, that Cabinet member would have a personal interest in any future decisions made in relation to the Trust, and in some circumstances that interest would be prejudicial. This would debar the Cabinet member from taking part in any future Cabinet decisions relating to the Trust.

## Finance Director

25. This report asks the cabinet to note the background to the Potters Field Park Trust, and to agree two representatives from the Council to sit on the Potters Field Park Trust Management Board.
26. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Potters Field Park was leased to the Potters Field Trust Management Board in 2005, the role on the management board does not qualify for a members special responsibility payment.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Executive report - Creation of Management Trust for Potters Fields Park (8 March 2005)	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Everton Roberts 0207 525 7221
Minutes of Executive held on Tuesday March 8 2005	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Everton Roberts 0207 525 7221
Council Assembly report – Future Management of Potters Fields Park (7 December 2005)	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Everton Roberts 0207 525 7221

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment, and Recycling	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment	
<b>Report Author</b>	Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	29 June 2011	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>		29 June 2011