

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

17 DECEMBER 2014

Report by Deputy Chief Executive

RENFREWSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To note the dissolution of the current Renfrewshire Educational Trust; the establishment of a new Trust; and to approve the appointment of 2 elected members to serve on the new Trust.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Council:-
- (a) notes the dissolution of the Renfrewshire Educational Trust in its current form and the establishment of a new Trust; and
  - (b) nominates 2 elected members to be appointed as Trustees on the new trust.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The Renfrewshire Educational Trust is an independent private trust with a public ethos for educational advancement. Operating within the geographical area of the East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils, it provides financial assistance for educational purposes to those in financial need; for example, children in low income households taking part in school trips and excursions; funding towards further education qualifications, or development in music or the arts.

4. The current board of governors comprises 21 members including 3 elected members from East Renfrewshire Council: Councillors Gilbert, Green and O'Kane.

**REPORT**

5. Following changes to Trust Law arising from the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the opportunity was taken to amend the current scheme for the Trust to reflect the new requirements. A review of the current administration of the Trust to modernise the approach to awards made by the Trust has also been carried out.

6. In accordance with the statutory process, the Trust submitted a formal application to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) in January this year. The formal notice for reorganisation was subsequently published by OSCR on 2 May 2014 and approval for the reorganisation granted by OSCR on 31 July 2014.

7. The new scheme as approved by OSCR sees a reduction in the number of Governors (now known as Trustees) from 21 to 10. This will include a reduction from 3 to 2 in the number of Trustees appointed by the Council.

8. It is anticipated that the transfer from the old to the new scheme will take place in February 2015. This will require the current board to meet to approve the formal adoption of the new scheme. This would be the last meeting of the current Trust and would be followed immediately thereafter by the inaugural meeting of the new Trust.

9. As part of the proceedings at the first meeting of the new Trust, Trustees will require to appoint a Chairperson from amongst the Trustees representing the 3 local authorities, a Secretary and Treasurer. Renfrewshire Council has to date undertaken the roles of Secretary and Treasurer to the Trust and has offered to continue to support the Trust in this way.

## **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

10. There are no financial implications for the Council as a consequence of the changes to the Trust.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS**

11. There are no implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities or sustainability.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

12. The proposed changes to the structure of the Renfrewshire Educational Trust have arisen as a result of legislative changes. The opportunity has also been taken to introduce more streamlined processes. The main change affecting the Council is the reduction by one in the number of elected members serving on the Trust.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

13. That the Council:-

- (a) notes the dissolution of the Renfrewshire Educational Trust in its current form and the establishment of a new trust; and
- (b) nominates 2 elected members to be appointed as Trustees on the new Trust.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985

Report Author

Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager  
e-mail: [eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)  
tel: 0141 577 3023

Background papers

Report to Renfrewshire Council 9 October 2014