

Agenda

General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 4.00 pm
in Committee Room 1 - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

3 Minutes 7 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 as a correct record.

4 Urgent Item of Business

To determine whether there are any additional items of business arising which should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

5 Nomination for Honorary Alderman 11 - 18

To consider a nomination to confer the title of Honorary Alderman.

6 Mayoral Nominations 2023/24 19 - 22

To consider recommending to Council the



nominations to the office of Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor of Sandwell for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

7 **Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Annual Report 2022/23** 23 - 26

To consider the Annual Report 2022/23 of the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust.

8 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

That the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting. This is to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to any individual.

9. **Appeal Against the Decision of the Adaptations Panel** 27 - 76
1

To consider an appeal against the decision of the Adaptations Panel.

Shokat Lal

Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House

Freeth Street

Oldbury

West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Dhallu (Chair)

Councillors E Costigan, Dhariwal, S Jones, Millar, Simms and Trumpeter

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Minutes of General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**24 November 2022 at 6.00pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Dhallu (Chair)
Councillors Costigan, S Jones, Millar, Simms and Trumpeter.

In attendance: Tracey Hurst (Electoral Services Manager); David King (Elections Assistant) and Trisha Newton (Deputy Democratic Services Manager).

11/22 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

12/22 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

13/22 **Review of Polling Places and Polling Stations 2022/23**

The Committee considered the review of polling places and polling stations 2022/23.

The Elections Team had undertaken a review of polling places following the May 2022 elections. Although not statutory, it was considered good practice to undertake a review after an election year.



When reviewing polling places, it had been necessary to review their appropriate efficacy. The perspective of the electorate had to be considered in any change, such as, the accessibility of the site, its suitability, parking arrangements and disabled access. If alternative sites could not be found in the vicinity, then the site would not be changed.

The changes now recommended took into account the commitment made following the 2021 review to reduce the number of schools and temporary huts used as polling stations.

Resolved to recommend to Council that:-

- (1) the proposed changes to specific Polling Places and Polling Stations as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) subject to (1) above, the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to implement the approved changes detailed in Appendix 1;
- (3) subject to any required changes with a Polling Place or Polling Station within the Borough prior to elections in 2023 (and beyond), the Returning Officer (or in their absence/unavailability, the Deputy Returning Officer) be authorised to change any Polling Place(s) and/or Polling Station(s), following consultation with relevant Ward Members and Chairperson of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, as considered necessary to enable the efficient and effective running of elections.

14/22

Nomination for Honorary Alderwoman

The Committee considered a nomination for conferment of the title of Honorary Alderwomen in respect of former Councillor Dr Ann Jaron.



The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the honour of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen of the Borough on elected members who had given eminent service to the Borough. This honour was in accordance with the Council's honorary scheme.

Dr Jaron had represented the Borough for 25 years. She had been a Cabinet Member for Social Care for a number of years and had also served as Mayor of Sandwell for the municipal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Dr Jaron had confirmed that she would be minded to accept the nomination.

Resolved to recommend to Council that the title of Honorary Alderwoman is conferred to Dr Ann Jaron, in recognition of her eminent service to the Borough of Sandwell.

Meeting ended at 6.33pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk



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Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

14 March 2023

Subject:	Nominations for Honorary Alderman
Director:	Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contact Officer:	Trisha Newton Trisha_Newton@sandwell.gov.uk


1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee considers recommending that Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Mohinder Singh Tagger.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to indicate whether or not it would wish to confirm the title on any person or persons. If the Committee wishes to nominate a suitable person it is recommended that an extraordinary meeting of Council is held on 28 March 2023, prior to the ordinary meeting of Council. The Council will consider this Committee's recommendations and, if appropriate, pass the necessary statutory resolutions required by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people.
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 In order to recognise eminent or notable service rendered to the Borough by former Councillors, in 1997, the Council introduced a scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Alderman of the Borough. This scheme was amended in 2008 to reduce the required number of years' service to twelve and in 2013 to reflect Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to the effect that any reference to Honorary Alderman should be followed by the insertion of Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen.
- 4.2 The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the honour to elected members who had given eminent service to the Borough. Local Authorities define the operation of the scheme within their Council areas.
- 4.3 The Committee is requested to consider a nomination by Councillor Bill Gavan, to award a honorary title to Mohinder Singh Tagger.
- 4.4 Former Councillor Mohinder Singh Tagger served on Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for 26 years, he had served as the Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2006- 2007, had held the position of Vice-Chair for Licensing Committee and Scrutiny Boards for a number of years.
- 4.5 In accordance with the scheme of enrolment, Mohinder Singh Tagger has indicated his willingness to accept the nomination for enrolment as Honorary Aldermen.
- 4.6 If the Committee is minded to support the nomination, the Committee's recommendation will be submitted for consideration at an Extraordinary Council meeting, immediately prior to the ordinary meeting of Full Council, scheduled to be held on the same day.

5 Implications

Resources:	Local Authorities are empowered to incur reasonable expenditure on the provision of an address or casket on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman.
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	It is the practice of this Authority to present a Badge of Office and a commemorative scroll to the Aldermen and Alderwomen, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.
Legal and Governance:	The authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderman and the power to incur expenditure is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as now amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
Risk:	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.
Equality:	There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.
Social Value	Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.
Corporate Parenting	There are no corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report.

6 Appendices

Nomination Form



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Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman

The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the honour of Honorary Aldermen of the Borough on elected members who had given eminent service to the Borough.

An Honorary Alderman shall be entitled to the following rights and privileges:-

- i) To enjoy the courtesy title of "Honorary Alderman" and to be addressed as such.
- ii) To attend as an observer at meetings of the Council or any other meetings to which the press and public are admitted and to have a seat reserved for this purpose.
- iii) On request to receive a copy of the Council Summons and Agenda and a copy of the Council's Year Book.
- iv) To receive invitations to all civic events to which members of the Council are invited.
- v) To walk in civic processions in a position immediately senior to serving Members.
- vi) To wear the Badge of Office of Honorary Alderman on civic occasions.
- vii) On death, to have the Borough flag flown at the Sandwell Council House at half-mast.
- viii) To enjoy such other privileges as the Council may confer upon them from time to time.

In the event of an Honorary Alderman resuming membership of the Council, he or she shall cease to be entitled to be addressed as "Honorary Alderman" or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the Council as an Honorary Alderman.

It shall be competent for the Council in any particular case to withdraw the title of "Honorary Alderman" and the attached rights and privileges on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee. Such withdrawal of the title shall be by resolution of the Council, passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council, specially convened for the purpose by the Mayor. On the passing of such resolution, the Chief Executive shall delete the name of the person concerned from the Roll of Honorary Alderman and advise that person accordingly.

Nomination Criteria

The following will be taken into account when consideration is given to granting an individual Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.

A person shall be deemed to be eligible for consideration to be nominated to the position of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman if he or she:-

- i) has rendered a minimum of **12** years service as a Member of the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council;

and/or

- ii) has rendered eminent or notable service to the Borough of Sandwell by serving as a Chairperson of a major Council Committee or holding one or more senior positions on the Council or in any political group.

N.B. In the case of qualification (i) previous service before 1st April 1974 with a constituent authority will be taken into account.

Nomination Form

I, Councillor BILL GAVAN wish to nominate the following person to be considered for the status of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman of the Borough for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

Nominee R. H. D. Mohinder Singh TAGEER

I am aware that the following criteria is applied to the achievements of the nominee.

The Nominee has:-

[Please delete as appropriate]

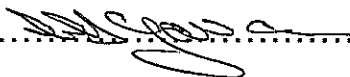
- i) has rendered a minimum of **12** years service as a Member of the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council;

and/or

- ii) has rendered eminent or notable service to the Borough of Sandwell by serving as a Chairperson of a major Council Committee or holding one or more senior positions on the Council or in any political group.

I believe the nominee has met the criteria in the following way(s):-

<p>Dedicated Civic & Community Worker.</p>
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Signed: 

Dated: 31st Jan 2023

Nomination supported by: 

Date: 31st Jan 2023

Please return this form to the Chief Executive

Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

14 March 2023

Subject:	Nominations for the Offices of Mayor/Chair of Sandwell Council and Deputy Mayor for the 2022/23 Municipal Year
Director:	Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contact Officer:	Trisha Newton Senior Democratic Services Officer Trisha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







- 1.1 That the Committee recommends to Council the nominations for the offices of the Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor of Sandwell for the Municipal year 2022/24.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee has delegated authority on behalf of Council to consider and make recommendations on the nomination of Elected Members to the offices of Mayor/ Deputy Mayor and Chair/ Vice- Chair of Sandwell Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

  	  	As the first citizen of Sandwell, the Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor are ambassadors of the Council, thus promoting and thereby contributing to all of the Council's ambitions.
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4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The Council, at its meeting on 8 January 2013, approved the process for the selection of Civic Mayor based on the following criteria:-

- nominees shall be serving members of Sandwell Council who have not previously served as Civic Mayor;
- nominees shall have given notable service to the Borough of Sandwell as a councillor and/or within the local community;
- each nomination shall be submitted by a serving member of the Council supported by five other serving members of the Council, regardless of political party.

4.2 All members of the Council have been invited to submit nominations for the office of Civic Mayor. All valid nominations will be reported at the meeting.

4.3 As Civic Mayor the individual will be Chair of the meetings of Full Council. In this capacity the Mayor will have the following responsibilities:

- to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
- to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community;
- to ensure the efficient dispatch of business in accordance with Standing Orders;



- to ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and the place at which members who are not on the Executive are able to hold the Executive members to account;
- to ensure the thorough conduct of scrutiny, when undertaken by the Council in accordance with the procedure rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution;
- to promote public involvement in the Council's activities;
- to be the conscience of the Council.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Council is legally required to appoint a Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 municipal year.

6 Implications

Resources:	The Council makes financial provision annually to enable the functions of the Mayoralty to be undertaken. Staff support is provided by the Member and Business Support Team.
Legal and Governance:	The Council is legally required to appoint a Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 municipal year. The General Purposes and Arbitration Committee has the responsibility under its terms of reference to make recommendations to the Council on nominations for the Civic Mayor of the Council. The role and responsibilities of the Civic Mayor are contained within Article 5 of the Council's Constitution.
Risk:	There are no risk implications arising from this report
Equality:	An equality impact assessment is not required
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.
Social Value	There are no implications arising directly from this report.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.



Corporate Parenting	There are no corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report.
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7. Appendices

None

8. Background Papers

None



Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

14 March 2023

Subject:	Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Annual Report 2022/ 23
Director:	Director of Adult Social Care Rashpal Bishop
Contact Officer:	Business Partner Adult Social Care and Public Health, Susanne Moore Susanne_Moore@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations




- 1.1 That the Committee considers the Annual Report 2022/ 23 of the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust.
- 1.2 That the Committee notes the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Financial Position.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The members of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee are the legal Trustees of the Leonard Andres Poole Trust.
- 2.2 A minimum of three trustees must approve any expenditure from the Trust.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>People live well and age well</p> <p>The Trust aims to promote the wellbeing of the residents of Grafton Lodge care home or any care home, including older people, managed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>The Trust is registered with the Charities Commission and aims to promote cohesive and supportive communities.</p>
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <p>Housing and supporting quality neighbourhoods are key ambitions of the Trust.</p>

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Leonard Andrews Poole Trust is a Trust fund set up in 1980 from a bequest by Leonard Andrews and is registered with the Charities Commission.
- 4.2 The bequest stipulated that the funds could not be spent and must be held in perpetuity; however, any interest arising from the investment can be utilised for the benefit of residence of Grafton Lodge care home or any care home managed by Sandwell MBC.
- 4.3 The Trust holds 7767.32 shares on deposit with COIF Charities Investment Fund managed by CCLA. COIF is a long-term, sustainable investment solution which incorporates environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into the investment strategy. COIF is considered suitable for charities looking for a good level of distributions and protection from inflation. The portfolio has a bias towards real assets, predominantly global equities but also property investments and infrastructure.



4.4 Trust Financial Position

	Cash Held in Bank
Opening Balance 1.4.22	26,676.52
Dividends – June	1,050.14
Dividends – September	1,050.14
Dividends – December	1,064.90
Dividends – March	1,064.90
Bank Interest	
Expenditure	0
Closing Balance 28.2.23	30,906.60

- 4.5 The closing bank balance is available for the benefit of residents of council managed residential style unit of which there are currently two - Harvest View and Fountain Court. No expenditure has been incurred during 2022/23. Average annual income levels are £4,200 per annum and the annual income yield is forecast to be 2.91% for 2023/24.
- 4.6 The Trust holds 7767.32 shares which had an opening valuation on £153,327.67 as at 1 April 2022 the current value of the shares is £145,031.40 a decrease of £8,296.27 during the financial year. Share prices can go up and down however the rate of dividends remains consistent.
- 4.7 The managers at Harvest View and Fountain Court have been made aware of the level of funds available and their potential uses and may be submitting a report to utilise some of the funds held in the bank to the August committee.

5 Implications

Resources:	No resource implications
Legal and Governance:	Funds must be held and spent in accordance with the bequest. The bequest conditions have been adhered to during 2022/23.
Risk:	There is always risk associated with investment in shares however this is mitigated by depositing the capital in a fund suitable for charity's who are looking



	for a good level of distributions and long-term protection from inflation. CCLA was founded in 1958 and the COIF investment has been available since 1963 with this investment being made in 1980. Historic analysis provides evidence to support growth in both the capital investment and level of dividend.
Equality:	None in relation to this report
Health and Wellbeing:	Funds are available for the benefit of resident of local authority residential facilities.
Social Value:	Improving the lives of individual within residential care settings or similar
Climate Change:	None in relation to this report.

6 Appendices

None

7. Background Papers

None



By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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