



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



# Governance and Audit Committee


29 November 2023

Report of Councillor Philip Knowles,  
Cabinet Member for Corporate  
Governance and Licensing

## Appointment of Director of Council-Owned Company – LeisureSK Limited

### Report Author

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### Purpose of Report

The Governance and Audit Committee is requested to appoint a Director to fill a vacancy on the Board of LeisureSK Limited.

### Recommendations

**That the Governance and Audit Committee:**

- 1. Approves the appointment of Deborah Roberts as a Director of LeisureSK Limited with immediate effect.**

### Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Growth and our economy Healthy and strong communities
Which wards are impacted?	All wards

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Directorships of Council-owned companies do not offer any remuneration.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.2 It is strongly recommended that Cabinet Members are not appointed as Directors of Council-owned companies given their roles on 'Council-side' decision-making, unless there is a very strong justification for doing so. Similarly, consideration should be given as to whether the Council's Statutory Officers are also not placed in a similar position given their personal/individual responsibilities in respect of the Council. The officer proposed for appointment in this report is not a Statutory Officer.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

## 2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 A vacancy has arisen on the Board of the Council-owned company, LeisureSK Limited. The Governance and Audit Committee is requested to consider making an appointment to fill this vacancy.

### **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 Following the recent resignation of Craig Spence from LeisureSK Limited, the Board currently consists of Councillor James Denniston, Councillor Charmaine Morgan, Nicola M<sup>c</sup>Coy-Brown (Director of Growth and Culture at South Kesteven District Council) and David Monkhouse (Non-Executive Director) who continue to oversee the operational and financial performance of the company.
- 3.2 This resignation has left an officer vacancy on the Board of Directors for the company, with the understanding that appointments from the Council onto the Board would reflect two officer and three elected Member positions.
- 3.3 Deborah Roberts, Head of Corporate Projects, Performance and Climate Change, is nominated to fill the officer vacancy. She has 15 years of local government project management experience, which includes leading on a complex leisure contract re-tendering process at another local authority, generating a financial return to the Council. In this former role, Debbie led a project which successfully refurbished a leisure centre, winning awards for the outcome and has led several large funding bids to enhance facilities for enhancing the visitor offer. At South Kesteven District Council Debbie was involved in the transfer of leisure services from 1Life to LeisureSK Limited, so has an operational understanding of the facilities. As Head of Projects, Performance and Climate Change she is up to date on a range of funding opportunities that the Council has submitted, or will be reviewing, to support the Council achieving its zero carbon target. Sustainability, from a climate and financial point, will be a key focus going forward and she believes she can offer experience in a range of areas and provide guidance to the Board in decision-making around these. Deborah Roberts has indicated that she would be willing to act as Director of LeisureSK Limited should her nomination be approved.
- 3.4 A vacancy for a Councillor from the South Kesteven Coalition Group is still in place. The Leader of the South Kesteven Coalition Group has delegated authority to appoint a Councillor to this position at any time.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 The Governance and Audit Committee could opt not to make an appointment to the Board of LeisureSK Ltd.
- 4.2 The Committee could make further appointments to those set out in the report and consider an alternative appointment to the Officer recommended in paragraph 3.3.

### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 5.1 To ensure that Council-owned companies are properly constituted in terms of Board membership in order that they are quorate, can take decisions and operate in accordance with their articles of association.