



Wednesday, 19 March 2025

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

LeisureSK Limited – Board of Directors

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To note the resignation of the Chairman of the LeisureSK Limited Board from 31 March 2025 and consider the appointment of a new Director of LeisureSK Limited.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Note the contents of the report.**
- 2. Approve the appointment of Mr David Scott to the Board of LeisureSK Limited, in place of Mr Paul Sutton.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? No

What are the relevant corporate priorities? Effective council

Which wards are impacted? (All Wards)

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.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The proposed appointment provides the Board with sufficient resilience to meet its requirements for quoracy in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and the company's Articles of Association, which specify at least one Director must be appointed to the Board. The appointment of wider representation onto the Board represents good governance principles. Should the appointment be approved, the Board for LeisureSK Limited would consist of three Directors and one Non-Executive Director.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 LeisureSK Limited was established as a company to manage the Council's leisure facilities. It is wholly owned by the Council.
- 2.2 The membership of the Board currently consists of Miss Deborah Roberts (the Council's Head of Corporate Projects, Performance and Climate Change (Councillor Patsy Ellis (District Councillor), Councillor Philip Knowles (Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing), Mr Paul Sutton (the Council's Interim Deputy Section 151 Officer) and Mr David Monkhouse (Non-Executive Director).

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 Mr Paul Sutton was appointed onto the Board until the expiration of his current interim contract with the Council.
- 3.2 The Council has appointed Mr David Scott as its new Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer.

3.3. Whilst Mr Sutton's interim contract has not yet expired, it is considered timely to replace him on the Board with the Council's new Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer. Mr Scott has indicated, if appointed, that he is willing to sit on the Board of LeisureSK Limited and has provided the following personal statement the Committee's consideration:

I have worked in Local Government for the past 20 years gaining extensive experience across several key functions within the local government finance sector. As a qualified CIPFA Accountant (now Fellowship Institute Member) and operating as the Deputy Section 151 Officer in my role for the last 10 years, has enabled me to be an integral part the councils Leadership Team providing strategic finance support.

Most of my time in local government has seen me lead and manage a number of services alongside the core finance function including Procurement, Governance, Risk, Revenues, Corporate Property, Legal Services and Elections.

During my career I have responsible for overseeing the production of the annual budget, in year budget monitoring and completing the annual preparation for closure of accounts and audit liaison. Alongside this I have been the lead for risk including development of the Risk Management Strategy.

As a member of the Council's Senior Leadership Team, I have had significant experience of working with elected members, including the writing and presentation of various finance-related reports to Cabinet, Council, Governance and Audit and Standards Committee, and Scrutiny functions as well as providing regular briefings to the Finance Portfolio Holder and other Cabinet Members.

I also play a key role in providing financial support in a number of different ways covering corporate priority projects, high value / complex contracts, management development schemes and supporting the returning officer when elections take place.

3.4. Miss Deborah Roberts (the Council's Head of Corporate Projects, Performance and Climate Change), provided notice of her resignation as Chairman and Director of the LeisureSK Limited Board with effect from 31 March 2025. This is the date of the next scheduled Board meeting where the accounts will be signed off and the new 10-year contract as part of the new agency model will commence. Miss Roberts has therefore taken the decision to hand over the chairmanship to somebody new as the company transitions to the new agency model and enters into its new contractual arrangement.

3.5 The Council is in the process of considering another officer to propose for appointment onto the Board in place of Miss Roberts.

- 3.6 The LeisureSK Limited Board will be required to appoint a new Chairman from its Board of Directors.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 To not make any changes to the membership of the Board of LeisureSK Limited at this time.
- 4.2 To consider any further appointments onto the Board of LeisureSK Limited.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. To ensure that LeisureSK Limited is properly constituted and has adequate membership on its Board.