

Decision Maker: Environment Portfolio Holder

**For Pre-decision scrutiny by the Environment PDS
Committee on**

Date: 16th June 2011

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: CHISLEHURST AND ST. PAULS CRAY COMMONS
CONSERVATORS - NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION

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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Director of Environmental Services

Ward: Chislehurst, Cray Valley West

1. Reason for report

This report details nominations to the Board of Conservators. The Environment Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the appointment of two nominees to serve for the three-year period to 30th June 2014.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Portfolio Holder is recommended to:

- 1) **appoint the two nominees to serve on the Board of Conservators for the next three years until 30th June 2014 and**
- 2) **record the vacancy that exists and authorise the Chislehurst and St Pauls Cray Commons Conservators to appoint as and when a suitable candidate volunteers, reporting such details at the next nomination report in 2012 to this Committee.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Parks and Greenspace - Parks Management
 4. Total current budget for this head: £42,310
 5. Source of funding: Existing Revenue budget 2011/12
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Less than 0.1 FTE
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 30 hours pa
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Approximately 50,000 visits per annum to the Commons as visitors or passing through
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: These will be reported on the evening if any are received

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 There are currently 14 members on the Board of the Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons Conservators. Up to five appointments can be made to the Board annually with each member serving for a period of three years. The 1888 Act, establishing the Conservators, requires that up to eight Conservators be elected from the Chislehurst vestry and seven by the St Paul's Cray vestry. There is currently one vacancy caused by a mid-term resignation of a member.

3.2 In addition the Lord of the Manor can appoint one person to the Board. The London Government Order (1966) makes reference to the requirement that four members of the Board shall be landowners with property fronting the St Paul's Cray Common (Frontagers). There are four existing frontagers on the Board so there is no requirement for the two nominees to be frontagers.

3.3 The two Conservators whose term of office has expired are:

David Howard
Elizabeth Greenwood

(Ray Gittins has also resigned)

The Nominees are detailed below:

Nominee	Nominating Organisation
Ian Leonard	Board of Conservators
Peter Woodward	Board of Conservators

3.4 Members requested in May 1990 that efforts were made to ensure that suitable local organisations were invited to submit nominations in the future. However, in this instance no other organisations than the Chislehurst Board of Conservators has put forward nominations.

3.5 Given the unexpected early retirement of one member, and the current lack of additional nominations; it is suggested that the Board of Conservators are simply given authority to appoint a suitable new member in due course, should a volunteer with the necessary skills and attributes present themselves. This will need to be ratified by this committee at the next annual nominations report during 2012.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Authority has for a number of years made a financial contribution to the management and maintenance of the Chislehurst and St Pauls Cray Commons Conservators, rather than undertake direct responsibility itself.

5. FINANCIAL

5.1 The Environment Portfolio Holder has agreed a 5 year fixed grant of £36,300 per annum commencing April 2011. This has in effect brought forward the £6k saving for 2012/13. A further saving will be made in the following 4 years from not having to pay the inflation increase.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Chislehurst and St Pauls Cray Commons Conservators under the Metropolitan Commons (Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray) Supplemental Act 1888 *'may from time to time appoint a fit and proper person, or fit and proper persons, to be their clerk and treasurer, and shall appoint or employ such common-keepers, collectors, and other officers and servants as may be necessary and proper for the preservation of order on, and the enforcement of bye-laws with respect to, the Commons, and otherwise for the purposes of this scheme, and may make rules for regulating the duties and conduct of the several officers and servants so appointed and employed (altering such rules as occasion may require); and the Conservators may pay, out of the moneys to be received under this scheme, to such officers and servants such reasonable wages, salaries, or allowances as they may think proper, and every such officer and servant shall be removable by the Conservators at their pleasure'*.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Minutes of the Board Meeting 26.4.2011