

Dear Chair,

As previously advised, I wish to move an amendment to the report on Governance to be presented to trustees at the meeting on Thursday 12th May, the power to accept such amendments being within your discretion as Chair, under the Administrative Regulations. The wording of the amendment will be as follows, as notified to trustees in my paper dated 11th March 2016, which gives more than adequate notice.

AMENDMENT:

“In place of the four trustees which the amended IoD report proposes to be filled by members of Shetland Islands Council, and eleven appointed trustees, there shall be eight trusteeships filled by candidates nominated in public elections and seven appointed trustees, selected by the mechanism currently used.

“The method of choosing the eight independent, elected trustees will be as follows:

1. Candidates for trusteeships will require to be nominated by at least five registered electors in the Shetland area;
2. The trust shall publish a list of the personal qualities and abilities considered desirable in candidates for trusteeships, and supply the candidates with a clear description of trustees' duties and responsibilities, as well as a general account of what the trust is and does;
3. There will be a postal ballot of all registered Shetland electors, conducted by Electoral Reform Services Ltd or a similarly qualified organisation;
4. Those electors who have chosen not to be on the published register will be alerted by a public notice that they can register with the trust to vote in the election;
5. No canvassing or advertising by candidates will be permitted;
6. Candidates will each be allocated space in the official election circular, sent out with the ballot paper, for a photograph and 400 words describing the skills, experience and ideas they would bring to the trust;
7. The method of voting will be for the elector to endorse up to four candidates by marking a cross against the candidates' names (or by another voting arrangement to be decided by the present trustees, in consultation with OSCAR);
8. Upon publication of the results of the ballot, the trust will write to the candidates with the largest number of votes and invite them to become trustees;
9. If any candidate is nominated unopposed, he or she will be subject to the same vetting process as the appointed trustees before being invited to join the trust.
10. The new system will be phased in and elections then held at two yearly intervals, to allow for a regular turnover of trust membership but also to ensure some continuity of knowledge and experience.
11. In the event of there being insufficient candidates to fill any or all of the vacancies for elected nominees, the trust will use its existing powers to select new trustees *pro tem*, in addition to the seven appointed trustees.”

As the agenda of the meeting is published beforehand, I will also publish this amendment, for the sake of transparency.



Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Wills
Vice-chair, Shetland Charitable Trust
8th May 2016