

## Extension of AGM date **Proposal**

# 1. The problem

The Trust's Constitution stipulates that it will hold an Annual General Meeting once per year so that the Association's membership can receive the Annual Report and elect the Standing Committees. The COVID-19 regulations imposed by HM Government on all public buildings during 2020/21 restricted our ability to hold an AGM in March. After the lifting of restrictions, the earliest possible date to organise an AGM was November 2021.

As a result, the Trust is now out-of-kilter with its annual cycle and the newly elected officers and Trustees will only have a few months before they are due to stand for re-election in March 2022. Continuing with our regular AGM timing at this stage is no advantage to the Trust, the Officers, or our democracy.

# 2. Options

The Association has two options to consider.

## 2.1 Option 1—Continue with the AGM cycle

We can continue with the AGM cycle as stipulated in our Governing Document. This option requires the Trust to call an AGM in March 2022, after the current AGM in November 2021. This option is of no benefit to the Association and has the disadvantage of administering two AGMs close together. The elected officers will have little time to acclimatise before retiring at another AGM in five months.

The only advantage of option 1 is ensuring the election cycle restarts next year, but it disincentivises officers from taking decisions lasting more than a few months.

## 2.2 Option 2—Extend the period between AGMs

The second option is to extraordinarily extend the period between AGMs in light of the COVID-19 impact. This option would result in the new Officers and Committee members remaining in post until March 2023 to call the next AGM.

In all respects, the checks and balances of the Trust's Governing Document will remain in place, including the scrutiny of the Management Committee and annual submissions to the Charity Commission of England and Wales. The only exceptions will be the 2021 Annual Reports to Members will be delayed, and the new Officers elected at the AGM in November 2021 will stay in post until 2023.

From 2023, the annual cycle will resume its conventional frequency, notwithstanding any restrictions or regulations imposed by HM Government or other authorities.

The retiring Management Committee recommends this option as a pragmatic solution to getting the Trust back onto a routine footing following the pandemic.

### **3. Recommendation**

The Management Committee asks the Association to approve the temporary suspension of Section 8 (a) of the Constitution relating only to the timing of the next AGM. This proposal exceptionally provides an extension between AGMs from now to the end of April 2023. If approved, the next AGM must be held before the end of April 2023 and shall receive the Management Committee year-end reports for 2021 and 2022. Following the next AGM, all regular constitutional practices shall resume, notwithstanding further restrictions or regulations imposed by HM Government or other authorities. This proposal does not affect the right to call a Special General Meeting under Section 8 (b) of the Constitution.