

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (REGENERATION & INFRASTRUCTURE) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: Appointment to the Board of Fusion Assets Limited
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 8 th September 2016	Ref: 1861/MC	

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the intended change to the Board membership of Fusion Assets Ltd and to recommend that the Council, as sole member of the company, grants approval to the appointment of a new Co-opted Director to Fusion Assets.

2. Background

2.1 Fusion Assets was incorporated as a limited company by guarantee in 2006 following the closure of the Boots manufacturing facility in Airdrie. The company was originally established as a joint venture between North Lanarkshire Council and Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire to promote urban regeneration and economic development across North Lanarkshire with a focus on property-based projects.

2.2 In 2008 Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire resigned as a member and the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association were amended to reflect that North Lanarkshire Council was now the sole member of the Company. The Board was also restructured to allow a maximum of eight Directors, five of whom were to be Partner Directors (from North Lanarkshire Council). The five Partner Director positions are currently held by three Council elected members and two senior officers. The amended memorandum and Articles of Association provide for the Directors to appoint up to a maximum of three external Co-opted Directors.

2.3 Co-opted Directors are required to resign at the conclusion of each annual general meeting and stand for re-election so appointments are for approximately one year at a time. Private sector Co-opted Directors are required to devote such time to the company as may be considered necessary to discharge the duties of the post.

3. Board Recruitment

3.1 There is no absolute requirement to recruit additional private sector members to the Board of Fusion Assets. However the appointment of external Co-opted Directors is made to ensure that the appropriate range of skill sets and experience are present on the Board to facilitate good governance and decision making.

3.2 The current three Co-opted Directors were recruited and appointed in 2010 following the reactivation of the company and the preparation of a new investment strategy. The individuals appointed were identified on the basis of a skills matrix and possess a range of property and business experience in both the public and private sectors as well as having local knowledge.

3.3 One of the Co-opted Directors – Iain Carmichael, former Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire, who also acted as the Chairman of Fusion Assets, notified the Board in March 2015 of his intention to resign and formally stood down in June 2016. The Board have subsequently nominated Ronnie Smith, currently Chief Executive of Lanarkshire Enterprise Services Limited to replace him on the Board of Fusion Assets.

4. Requirement for Council Approval

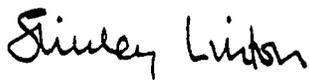
- 4.1 In terms of Article 44 of the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association the Partner Directors must obtain the prior approval in writing of the member (North Lanarkshire Council) to any individual appointed as a Co-opted Director.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 No Council funding is required. Co-opted Directors are remunerated for their time and services directly by Fusion Assets Ltd.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to approve the appointment of Ronnie Smith as a Co-opted Director of Fusion Assets Limited.



Shirley Linton
Head of Planning & Regeneration

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact David Greer, Planning and Regeneration, (01236 63285).