

## Sarah Anne Lees Charitable Endowment

To: Cllr J Iqbal <[Javid.Iqbal@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Javid.Iqbal@oldham.gov.uk)>

Dear Councillor Iqbal

I refer to the resolution of the Charitable Trust Committed on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 regarding the Sarah Anne Lees Charitable Endowment (which consists now of the proceeds of sale of the property known as 146 Werneth Hall Road). The text of the decision is set out below.

I am led to believe that the CTC wants the Legal Services Department of Oldham Borough Council to make the appropriate application on behalf of this Charity (that is on behalf of the acting charity trustees – ie the CTC) to the Charity Commission for an appropriate consent or scheme to enable this Charity to establish a mechanism (through convening an appropriate “panel” to review bids and make recommendations for final decisions to be made as to awards by the CTC) to enable community and voluntary organisations to bid for grants from this Charity, and through their bids to demonstrate how their project or activity meets the Charity’s objectives, how the funds would be used, how the activity would be sustained and how the impact of the activity would be evaluated.

The Council (as Council) will need to have an explicit instruction in writing from the CTC to have Legal Services do this piece of work for the Charity. I understand that the next meeting is this Wednesday and that there is an item on the agenda which allows for emergency items to be covered. As the next meeting is not until March 2022, I expect that the CTC would want progress to be made with this application before March 2022 and therefore I shall be grateful if you will consider using the emergency items part of the Agenda this Wednesday to confirm the CTC’s decision/resolution to instruct Legal Services to proceed with this application on behalf of the Charity/CTC.

In case you need to review the relevant items of paperwork, I attach in addition to a word copy of the printed minutes of the meeting from September 2020, a copy of the Report that was submitted relating to this issue.

I have previously given my apologies for the meeting so please get in touch prior to the meeting on Wednesday if you have any queries otherwise I look forward to receiving your written confirmation of instructions for us to proceed with the application as mentioned above.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Rebecca. Boyle

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## **CHARITABLE TRUSTEE COMMITTEE – 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 (Minute 8)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Reform which proposed that an application be made to the Charity Commission to release the permanent endowment of the Sarah Anne Lees Charity for distribution via means of grants to local voluntary and community organisations who could demonstrate their activity met the charitable objects.

The Committee noted the Charity's capital asset, 146 Werneth Hall Road, had recently been sold with funds of £277,069.22 now held in the charitable trust account.

The objects of the Charity were to advance the education of the public by grant funding charities offering training and learning in the life skills necessary to manage financial hardship, social or economic deprivation, social exclusion or poor mental or physical health.

The Committee noted that the income from the investment of the funds at the current time was minimal and insufficient to achieve the charitable purposes.

There were more than 1,200 voluntary and community organisations in Oldham, a significant proportion of which undertook activity which would be aligned to the objects of the charity. Covid19 had presented a further challenge with regards the financial resilience and long term viability of those organisations due to reducing their ability to fundraise or generate income whilst demand for their services had increased.

The Committee was informed that more than half of organisations surveyed in Oldham during the crisis had concerns about their financial sustainability over the next 3-6 months. Although emergency funds had been made available nationally and locally, these were largely focused on crisis response, rather than maintaining vital core activities which continued to be needed more than ever.

This presented an opportune time to invest in the sector to deliver the objects of the Charity, which were clearly in line with the needs of communities at the current time. It was proposed that a mechanism was established to enable community and voluntary organisations to bid for grants, and through this bid to demonstrate how their project or activity met the charitable objectives, how the funds would be used, how the activity would be sustained and how the impact of the activity would be evaluated. A Panel would be convened to review bids and make recommendations for a final decision to award by the Charitable Trust Committee.

**RESOLVED** that an application be made to the Charity Commission to release the permanent endowment of the Sarah Anne Lees Charity for distribution via means of grants to local voluntary and community organisations who could demonstrate their activity met the charitable objects.