

BRIEFING NOTE

**TRUSTEE FOR
THAMES WATER TRUST FUND**

- 1. About the charity**
- 2. Appointment of Trustees**
- 3. The role**
- 4. Facts about Thames Water Trust Fund**

Please apply by 20th January 2020 (early applications encouraged)

Interviews 5th February 2020

**Linda Perham
Chair of Trustees**

December 2019

Thames Water Trust Fund
Registered Charity Number: 1126714
Company Registered in England Number: 6663601

ABOUT THE CHARITY:

Thames Water Trust Fund is a Registered Charity. It is also a Company Limited by Guarantee¹. This corporate model is fairly typical of charities generally. Importantly it limits the liability of the Trustees.

Established in 2009 by Thames Water, its object is to provide support to Thames Water's customers who are in need and unable to meet the cost of water services and require further assistance.

The charity is successful and is known and has a good reputation throughout the utility industry and the money advice sector.

The operational activity of the trust is managed by an independent public benefit entity, Auriga Services Ltd. The services are procured using an open tender process.

Therefore, Thames Water Trust Fund does not employ staff or rent premises directly. It has a contract with Auriga to provide all management and administration for the Trust Fund.

¹ 'Limited by Guarantee' is an alternative to a company whose liability is limited by shares. Each of the Trustees (who are also the only members of the company) guarantees to pay £10 in the event of the Charity/Company not being able to meet its liabilities.

This safeguards the financial position for Trustees who in a non-incorporated charitable trust can be personally liable for commitments

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The Trust Fund is governed by Memorandum and Articles and therefore Trustees must be appointed in accordance with these. Existing Trustees decide how to select but in practice this has not been by open advertisement (and there is no requirement for this).

Under Charity Law, Trustees cannot be paid for their time whilst acting as a Trustee. However, expenses can be paid.

Trustees are also Directors of the incorporated Company, although they are referred to as 'Trustees'. Whilst the Mem & Arts also talk about 'members', the Trustees are the only members of the company.

Trustees therefore must not be precluded by any of the normal rules from being either a Trustee of a Charity or a company Director.

All Trustees have the same voting rights on the Board and although a Chair may be appointed (see below for the role of Chair for information) he or she has no greater powers than any other Trustee.

NEW TRUSTEES

The Trustees have reviewed their skills and experience, and have concluded that the board would benefit from at least one new member.

We are seeking trustees who have knowledge of the debt sector, financial or legal experience and charity management and governance

Activities are likely to be in the region of 4-5 half days per year. Applicants are requested to be certain that they can devote this time prior to application.

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT AURIGA SERVICES

Auriga Services was formed in 2004 as a wholly owned Public Benefit trading subsidiary of Severn Trent Trust Fund. Its original purpose was to extend the administrative services of the Trust to other similar trusts to achieve economies of scale.

In 2015, Auriga embarked on its own growth strategy with a mission of “Changing lives every day” and a vision for helping two million people by 2020.

It now has an ambitious growth agenda in its own right and has diversified to deliver welfare benefits realisation, debt advice and income maximisation services. This is delivered to a number of charities and the National Health Service.

Full details about Auriga can be found at www.aurigaservices.co.uk

FACTS ABOUT THAMES WATER TRUST FUND

- A Registered Charity: Established in 2009 by Thames Water who continue to give generous support.
- In 2018, the Thames Water Trust fund provided 1,100 beneficiaries with financial support. Together with the Thames Water Customer Assistance Fund, over 6,500 people were helped to get their life back on track.
- Facts about people seeking help with water debt over the last 10 years in the Thames area:

On average people seeking help with bills have £837 of water arrears and 80% identify that their money concerns cause additional vulnerability on top of their financial difficulties.

Renters are more likely to be struggling with arrears compared to those with mortgages or who owned their property outright. Overall, over 57% of our beneficiaries rent their home from a housing association.

Households with no children are more likely to seek support with their bills. 58% of beneficiaries had no children and only 8% of beneficiaries were from households containing three or more children: less than the national average of 15%.

A household with one person living alone are most likely to be in arrears on their water bill 77% of successful applications are from households containing only one adult.

Those on lower incomes are most likely to be falling behind on their water bill.

19% of households included a disabled person.

- Organisational grants are available to expand the reach of the Trust into local communities. The services provided by projects meet the advice needs of households who are struggling financially and generate opportunities for voluntary work.
- In the last 10 years 67 grants have been awarded to support projects in over 30 organisations, with a combined value of £2.6 million. This funding has created 63 jobs and more than 200 volunteering opportunities. The services delivered by these projects have reached over 30,000 individuals and provided invaluable funding streams for local organisations.

The Thames Water Trust Fund is managed by a Board of independent unpaid Trustees who set and oversee policy (Day to day administration is carried out by Auriga Services Ltd who also manage other similar schemes for major clients):

- *Linda Perham Chair of Trustees*
- *Christine Drury*
- *Georgina Tregoning*
- *Peter Tutton*
- *Abdul Ullah*