



## **DS SMITH PLC – NOMINATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Membership**

1. The Board shall appoint a Nomination Committee comprising of not less than two independent Non-Executive Directors and the Chair of the Company. The Chair of the Company will be appointed Chair of the Committee, except the Chair of the Company shall not chair the Committee when it is dealing with the appointment of their successor. The Chair of the Committee shall appoint the Secretary of the Committee. Appointments to the Committee are made by the Board and shall be for a period of up to three years, which may be extended, provided the Director still meets the criteria for membership of the Committee.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

2. The Committee shall meet at least four times a year and otherwise as required.

### **Terms of Reference**

3. The Committee should carry out the duties below for the Company, major subsidiary undertakings and the Group as a whole, as appropriate.
4. The Committee shall:
  - a. regularly review the structure, size and composition (including the skills, knowledge, experience and diversity) of the Board and make recommendations to the Board with regard to any changes;
  - b. ensure plans are in place for orderly succession for Directors and other senior executives, taking into account the challenges and opportunities facing the Company, and the skills and expertise needed on the Board in the future;
  - c. keep under review the leadership needs of the organisation, both Executive and Non-Executive, with a view to ensuring the continued ability of the organisation to compete effectively in the marketplace;
  - d. keep up to date and fully informed about strategic issues and commercial changes affecting the Company and the market in which it operates;
  - e. be responsible for identifying and nominating for the approval of the Board, candidates to fill board vacancies as and when they arise;
  - f. before any appointment is made by the Board, evaluate the balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity on the Board, and, in the light of this evaluation prepare a description of the role and capabilities required for a particular appointment. In identifying suitable candidates the Committee shall:
    - i. use open advertising or the services of external advisers to facilitate the search;

- ii. consider candidates from a wide range of backgrounds; and
- iii. consider candidates on merit and against objective criteria and with due regard for the benefits of diversity on the Board, including diversity of gender, socio - economic and ethnic backgrounds, cognitive and personal strengths, taking care that appointees have enough time available to devote to the position;
- g. for the appointment of a Chair, the Committee should prepare a job specification, including the time commitment expected. A proposed Chair's other significant commitments should be disclosed to the Board before appointment and any changes to the Chair's commitments should be reported to the Board as they arise;
- h. prior to the appointment of a Director, the proposed appointee should be required to disclose any other business interests that may result in a conflict of interest and be required to report any future business interests that could result in a conflict of interest. When making recommendations to the Board concerning new appointments, the Committee should take into account other demands on the proposed new director's time. Prior to appointment, significant commitments should be disclosed with an indication of the time involved. Additional external appointments should not be undertaken without prior approval of the Board, with the reasons for permitting significant appointments explained in the annual report. Full-time Executive Directors should not take on more than one non-executive directorship in a FTSE 350 company or other significant appointment;
- i. ensure that on appointment to the Board, Non-Executive Directors receive a formal letter of appointment setting out clearly what is expected of them in terms of time commitment, committee service and involvement outside Board meetings;
- j. review the results of the Board performance review process that relate to the composition of the Board and succession planning; and
- k. review annually the time required from Non-Executive Directors. Performance reviews should be used to assess whether the Non-Executive Directors are spending enough time to fulfil their duties.

The Committee shall also make recommendations to the Board concerning:

- a. formulating plans for succession for both Executive and Non-Executive Directors and in particular for the key roles of Chair and Group Chief Executive;
- b. suitable candidates for the role of Senior Independent Director;
- c. membership of the Audit and Remuneration Committees, and any other Board committees as appropriate, in consultation with the chairs of those committees;
- d. the re-appointment of any Non-Executive Director at the conclusion of their specified term of office having given due regard to their performance and ability to continue to contribute to the Board in the light of the knowledge, skills and experience required;
- e. the re-election by shareholders of Directors under the annual re-election provisions of the Code, having due regard to their performance and ability to continue to contribute to long term sustainable success of the Company in the light of the knowledge, skills and experience required and the need for progressive refreshing of the Board (particularly in relation to Directors being re-elected for a term beyond six years, taking into

account the length of service of individual directors, the Chair and the Board as a whole);

- f. any matters relating to the continuation in office of any Director at any time including the suspension or termination of service of an Executive Director as an employee of the Company subject to the provisions of the law and their service contract; and
- g. the appointment of any Director to executive or other office.

### **Reporting Responsibilities**

- 5. The Committee Chair shall report to the Board on its proceedings after each meeting on all matters within its duties and responsibilities. The Committee shall make whatever recommendations to the Board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.
- 6. The Committee shall produce a report to be included in the Company's annual report about its activities, the process used to make appointments and explain if external advice or open advertising has not been used.

### **Other Matters**

- 7. The Committee shall:
  - a. have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the company secretariat for assistance as required;
  - b. be provided with appropriate and timely training, both in the form of an induction programme for new members and on an ongoing basis for all members;
  - c. give due consideration to laws and regulations, the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code and the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Listing, Prospectus and Disclosure and Transparency Rules and any other applicable Rules, as appropriate; and
  - d. arrange for periodic reviews of its own performance and, at least annually, review its constitution and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the Board for approval.

### **Authority**

- 8. The Committee is authorised by the Board to obtain, at the Company's expense, outside legal or other professional advice on any matters within its terms of reference.
- 9. The Chair of the Committee or, in his absence, another member of the Committee shall answer questions concerning matters falling within its Terms of Reference at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Procedure**

- (i) The meetings and proceedings of the Committee will be governed by the Company's Articles of Association.
- (ii) The Committee will meet as and when required.
- (iii) The quorum for decisions of the Committee shall be any two Non-Executive Directors or the Chair and one Non-Executive Director present throughout the Meeting.
- (iv) The Committee may invite members of the Board or other Executives to attend

its meetings.

- (v) Minutes of meetings shall be taken by the Committee Secretary and shall be reviewed and approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair of the Committee.
- (vi) Subsequent to the meeting of the Committee the agenda for the subsequent Board Meeting shall provide an opportunity for the Chair of the Committee to report orally on any matters of importance.

Adopted by the Board on 19 June 2015 and most recently revised in April 2024.