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| <b>Cabinet</b><br><br>31 October 2017   | <br><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b> |
| <b>Report of:</b> Matthew Mannion, Committees Services Manager, Democratic Services | <b>Classification:</b><br>Unrestricted  |
| <b>Appointments to External Bodies</b>  |   |

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| <b>Lead Member</b>            | <b>Mayor John Biggs</b>                      |
| <b>Originating Officer(s)</b> | Joel West, Senior Committee Services Officer |
| <b>Wards affected</b>         | All wards                                    |
| <b>Community Plan Theme</b>   | All  |
| <b>Key Decision?</b>          | No   |

### Executive Summary

The Mayor has responsibility for appointing representatives to certain external bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council. This report sets out the appointment and removal of appointees of several outside bodies. The appointments are until further notice, though they will usually be renewed each year.

### Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree to the removal of Councillor John Pierce from the Board of the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity.
2. Agree to the removal of Councillor Andrew Cregan from the Board of East End Homes.
3. Agree to the appointment of Councillor John Pierce to serve on the Board of East End Homes, to serve until further notice.
4. Agree to the removal of Councillor Rachael Saunders from and the appointment of Councillor Denise Jones, to serve until further notice on:
  - a. East London & The City University Mental Health NHS Trust (East London NHS Foundation Trust),
  - b. East London Nursing Trust and
  - c. the role of Older People's Member Champion.
5. Agree to the appointment of Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs to serve on the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership Advisory Council, to serve until further notice

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 Appointing representatives to outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the Borough.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Mayor could decide not to make appointments to outside bodies at all. However, this is not recommended as it would reduce the Council's opportunity to be involved in and to support good work within the community and it would also reduce the Council's leadership opportunities. There are also a number of bodies where the Council is required, or expected to provide a representative.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 3.1 Participating in the work of external bodies is an important part of the role of elected Members, but is different in nature from other aspects such as being a member of a local authority executive or sitting on regulatory committees. In some cases it will involve actively representing and defending the authority's interests on local authority associations. In others it will involve becoming a trustee of a charity or a director of a company limited by guarantee. In this case Members have a duty to act in the best interests of the organisation to which they have been appointed rather than exclusively pursue the authority's interests. There are potential tensions in carrying out this role effectively. To this end guidance will be sent to all those appointed to external bodies.
- 3.2 A key part of this role is ensuring that information about the activities of external bodies is communicated to the Council. Much of this may take place through day to day contact with colleagues or with officers responsible for that area of work, but there is provision where necessary for Members appointed by the Council to report back to a meeting of the Council.

### Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity

- 3.3. There is provision for up to three persons (either Councillors, officers or lay persons) to serve on the Board of the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity. Appointments are normally made for four years.
- 3.4 At the current time, two persons have been nominated as Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity Board members. They are Councillor John Pierce and Mr Dean Jones (layperson). Approvals of these nomination were agreed in 2015/16 and 2017/18 respectively. This report proposes Councillor John Pierce is removed from the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity Board.

### East End Homes

- 3.5 There is provision for up to two persons to serve on the Board of East End Homes. Appointments are normally made for one year.
- 3.6 At the current time, two persons have been nominated as East End Homes Board members. They are Councillor Rachael Saunders and Mr Motin Uz-Zaman (layperson). These nominations were agreed in 2017/18, however, Councillor Saunders has chosen not to take up her nomination to the Board and therefore the Council's current representative on the Board is the former nominee, Councillor Andrew Cregan. This report proposes Councillor Andrew Cregan is removed from the Board of East End Homes and replaced with Councillor John Pierce.

### East London & The City University Mental Health NHS Trust

- 3.7 There is provision for up to one Councillor to serve on the Board of the East London & The City University Mental Health NHS Trust (East London NHS Foundation Trust). Appointments are normally made for one year.
- 3.8 At the current time, Councillor Rachael Saunders has been nominated as the Board member. This nomination was agreed in June 2017. This report proposes Councillor Rachael Saunders is removed from the The City University Mental Health NHS Trust and replaced with Councillor Denise Jones.

### East London Nursing Society Trust

- 3.9 There is provision for up to one person (either Councillor, officer or lay person) to serve on the Board of the East London Nursing Society Trust. Appointments are normally made for one year.
- 3.10 At the current time, Councillor Rachael Saunders has been nominated as the Board member. This nomination was agreed in June 2017. This report proposes Councillor Rachael Saunders is removed from the The East London Nursing Society Trust and replaced with Councillor Denise Jones.

### Older People's Member Champion

- 3.11 This is not an outside body, but a role within the Council that has historically been appointed to via the outside body appointments process. The 2001 National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People introduced the concept of 'Older People's Champions' — individuals (who may be councillors, officers or others) who would play a key role in promoting the interests of older people, particularly in health and social care. The Framework recommended that each local authority nominate an elected Councillor to lead for older people across their council. This Councillor would aim to ensure that older people become and remain a priority within the council and would support the implementation of the NSF and the wider older people's programme.

- 3.12 The Council has continued this practice and nominates one of its Councillors as an Older People's Member Champion. At the current time, Councillor Rachael Saunders has been nominated as the Older People's Member Champion. This nomination was agreed in June 2017. This report proposes Councillor Denise Jones is nominated as the new Older People's Member Champion, to serve until further notice.

#### Tower Hamlets Education Partnership Advisory Council

- 3.13 The Tower Hamlets Education Partnership is a schools company established by school leaders to deliver high quality school improvement to all Tower Hamlets schools. The stated purpose of the Partnership's Advisory Council is: *"To support the vision and the values of the Partnership, modelling these in its own practice. Reflecting the diversity of schools and their stakeholders it will advise and be consulted by the Board and Executive Director on the strategic direction and performance of the Partnership"*.
- 3.14 The Tower Hamlets Education Partnership Advisory Council is a new outside body; there is not currently a Council appointee. There is provision for up to 1 person to serve on the Advisory Council of the the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership. This report proposes Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs is appointed to the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership Advisory Council.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

#### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1 Pursuant to Part 3.2.2 of the Constitution, the appointment and removal of Councillors and others to outside bodies is an Executive decision when the appointment relates to executive functions. All of the appointments within this report relate to executive functions and such appointments are therefore for the Mayor in Cabinet to make.

#### **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Appointing representatives to outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the Borough.

#### **7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

#### **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 8.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Where appropriate it is important that any training/support needs of new appointees are identified by the bodies concerned and that appropriate training and support is delivered.
- 9.2 The appointment of representatives to external bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with the community. The appointment of representatives also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- Various [Individual Mayoral Decisions](#) relating to outside body nominations as referenced above.

#### **Appendices**

- NONE

#### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE.

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

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