

<b>Cabinet</b>	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
30 October 2019	
<b>Report of:</b> Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director Governance and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Nomination to Outside Bodies</b>	

<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>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	N/A
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	N/A
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	<b>A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough.</b>

### **Executive Summary**

It is the responsibility of the Mayor to nominate representatives to certain Outside Bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council.

Paragraph 3.3 of the report lists proposed appointments to outside bodies for the Mayor to consider. Although all appointments are reviewed regularly, they are, unless stated elsewhere in this report, valid until such time as they are amended or renewed by a Mayoral decision.

### **Recommendations:**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree the nominations to outside bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.3.

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

- 1.1 Having representatives on 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 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Participating in the work of outside 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 nominated to outside bodies.
- 3.2 A key part of this role is ensuring that information about the activities of outside 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.
- 3.3 The nominations to be made to Outside Bodies are:

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Mayor or Council Nomination</b>	<b>Nominees permitted</b>	<b>2019/20 nominee(s)</b>
The University Schools Trust	Mayor	One	Cllr Asma Islam
The Davenant Centre	Mayor	Two	Ms Jackie Odunoye

- 3.4 The University Schools Trust is a multi-academy trust and was established to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum. There is provision for the Council to nominate one representative to the Trust. The previous nominee was the Divisional Director Youth and Commissioning, Ronke Martins-Taylor. Ms Martins-Taylor resigned her position in September 2019.
- 3.5 The objects of the Davenant Centre are to promote the benefit of those living or working in Tower Hamlets, and utilization of the building for such ends, the advancement of education and work training, recreation, and advice and assistance. There is provision for the Council to nominate two representatives

to the Centre, though at the present time it is the intention that the second position remains vacant.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Nominating 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

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
  - Consultations,
  - Environmental (including air quality),
  - Risk Management,
  - Crime Reduction,
  - Safeguarding.
  - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The nomination of representatives to outside bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with the community. The nomination of representatives also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community.

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

- 6.1 This report requests the Mayor in Cabinet to agree nominations to outside bodies as outlined in the table at section 3.3 and as such there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The appointments in paragraph 3.3 are the responsibility of the executive. The Mayor therefore has responsibility for these appointments under the Constitution and is legally entitled to make these appointments.
- 7.2 When considering appointments or the approach to be taken to appointments, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (the public sector equality duty). It is

important to be satisfied that any process followed is supportive of equal opportunity.

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

### **Linked Report**

None.

### **Appendices**

None.

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

None.

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

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