

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2016  
MP702, 7TH FLOOR, MULBERRY PLACE, 5, CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON E14  
2BG**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Chair)  
Councillor David Edgar (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed  
Councillor Craig Aston

**Apologies:**

Councillor Aminur Khan  
Councillor Ayas Miah

**Officers Present:**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Kevin Miles       | – Resources Directorate                           |
| Hania Franek      | – Children's Services                             |
| Kathy Robinson    | – Legal Services, Law, Probity and Governance     |
| Michael Edley     | – Legal Services, Law, Probity and Governance     |
| Elizabeth Dowuona | – Committee Services, Law, Probity and Governance |

**1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There was none.

**2. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**2.1 LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS**

The report was introduced by Hania Franek, Head of School Governance and Information, who provided some background to the application.

She explained that following an Ofsted inspection, Raine's Foundation School was placed under special measures. The school was categorised as a failing school requiring improvement. The Ofsted report had indicated that the governing body did not provide effective challenge to leaders and did not hold them to account sufficiently well.

As a result, the governing body voted to disband itself and requested that the local authority, assisted by the London Diocesan Board for Schools and

Department for Education take over responsibility for the school until such time as a new governing body could be appointed.

The local authority and London Diocesan Board for Schools proposed establishing an Interim Executive Board of skilled professionals to be responsible for the governance of the school for an interim period prior to forming another governing body. Following discussions with the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Raine's Foundation it was agreed to set about arranging the appointment of seven new permanent members of the governing body with the skills needed to make it effective, hence the need to start the appointment process without delay.

The Committee noted that Tim Williams, had been identified as a potential member of the Interim Executive Board. His application was appended to the report under Part 2 the confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Mr Williams, currently employed as a local authority officer in schools had a vast knowledge and experience in all aspects of schools, the school curriculum and young people, at both a strategic and day to day level.

Officers proposed with respect to Tim Williams' nomination, that an exception to the protocol on the appointment of local authority governors, which debarred officers of the Directorate from being appointed as Local Authority governors. This was on the grounds that the protocol on the appointment of local authority governors, adopted by the Local Authority in 2005/6, had been applied to governing bodies, but not to Interim Executive Boards.

Members noted Tim Williams' extensive experience in education and considered that he would make an effective contribution to the governing body at Raine's Foundation School.

**RESOLVED -**

That Tim Williams be nominated for appointment as a governor at Raine's Foundation School under the 2012 School Governance Regulations.

**3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED –**

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the remaining agenda item contained information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**4. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS EXEMPT APPENDICES**

The appendices were noted.

**5. LATE ITEM - RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE UNDER S11 (3) AUDIT COMMISSION ACT 1998**

The Chair agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report.

Kevin Miles, Chief Accountant, Corporate Finance then introduced the report which set out how the actions agreed at Full Council (held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016) relating to the recommendation made by KPMG under S11(3) of the Audit Commission Act 1998 would be delivered.

He highlighted the process on how the decisions of Full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 would be implemented to provide additional assurance to the external auditors, KPMG.

Responding to Members' questions, the following points were noted:

- The Council endorsed the S11 report accepting the recommendation made by KPMG under Section 11 (3) of the Audit Commission Act 1998 which required an action plan to be drawn up to address the issues identified in the Section 11 regulations.
- A Governance Working Group had been set up to draw up the Action Plan, which would set out each individual action, the lead officer with responsibility for delivering the action and the timeframe within which the action would be delivered.
- The Council also endorsed the actions already put in place by the Corporate Director of Resources in response to the recommendation.
- It was envisaged that report on the progress on the Action Plan satisfying the S11 notice would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Audit Committee on 22 March 2016 for approval.

**RESOLVED -**

1. That the production of an action plan by the Governance Working Group to be undertaken as part of the Council's Governance Review be noted and endorsed.
2. That the progress of the Action Plan be monitored and reported to the General Purposes Committee periodically and submitted as a standing agenda item to the Audit Committee.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Sabina Akhtar  
General Purposes Committee