

Committee General Purposes Committee	Date 16th June, 2005	Classification Unrestricted	Report No. GPC001/056	Agenda Item No. 4.1
Report of: Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement Originating Officer(s): Tim Hogan		Title General Purposes Committee – Membership and Terms of Reference 2005-2006 Ward(s) affected: N/A		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out for Members' information the Committee's Terms of Reference and membership.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee's Terms of Reference and membership, be noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"

Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection

Council agenda papers – 25/05/2005

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

16th June, 2005

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND ENGAGEMENT

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 This report details for information the Committee's membership and Terms of Reference.

3.2 The General Purposes Committee, following a review of the Council's Constitution was established by Council on 13th April, 2005 with the following Terms of Reference:-

- (i) Elections:- To exercise powers in relation to the holding of elections and the maintenance of the electoral register including:-
 - the provision of assistance at European Parliamentary elections;
 - the exercise of powers to fill vacancies in the event of insufficient nominations in accordance with Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985;
 - power to make submissions to the Local Government Commission in relation to the boundaries of the borough or ward boundaries; and
 - the appointment of a proper officer for the purposes of giving various notices in relation to elections and referendums (e.g. in relation to the verification number for petitions for a referendum under the Local Government Act 2000).
- (ii) Appointments of officers or Members to external bodies.
- (iii) To recommend to Council the introduction, amendment or revocation of by-laws.
- (iv) Any other functions which under the Local Authorities (Function and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, may not be the responsibility of the Cabinet and which are not delegated elsewhere under this Constitution.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Annual Council, at its meeting held on 25th May, 2005 appointed the following Members to membership of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2005/2006:-

- (i) Councillor Ashton McGregor (Chair)
- (ii) Councillor Helal Abbas
- (iii) Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
- (iv) Councillor James Sanderson – deputies – Councillor Janet Ludlow,
Councillor Rajib Ahmed.
- (v) Councillor Marian Williams – deputies – Councillor Janet Ludlow,
Councillor Rajib Ahmed.

4.2 The quorum of the Committee is three Members.

5. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

5.1 Unlike other Standing Committees of the Council no schedule of meetings has been drawn up for the Committee. It is intended that the Committee will meet on an ad hoc basis and will only need to meet some two to three times in the current Municipal Year, however officers will keep the need for meetings under review.

6. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

6.1 Committee is recommended to note this report. The Committee's Terms of Reference were agreed by full Council on 13th April, 2005 and specify which non-executive function the Committee has delegated authority to discharge on behalf of the Council.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

7.1 The Committee is only expected to meet on an ad-hoc basis. It is not anticipated that any significant additional costs will arise as a result of this new Committee. Any incidental costs that do arise will be contained within the Democratic Renewal and Engagement budget within the Chief Executive's Directorate.

8. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no immediate anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no immediate equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

10.1 There are no SAGE implications arising from this report.

11. RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 This report is submitted for the Committee's information.

12. RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That the Committee's Membership and Terms of Reference, be noted.