

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2022

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Musthak Ahmed (Chair)
Councillor Abdul Mannan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Maisha Begum
Councillor Bodrul Choudhury
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Asma Islam
Councillor Ahmodur Khan
Councillor Abdul Malik

Other Councillors Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman – (Executive Mayor)
Councillor Maium Talukdar – (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for
– Education and Lifelong Learning)

Officers Present:

Sharon Godman – (Director, Strategy, Improvement and
Transformation)
Afazul Hoque – (Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Daniel Kerr – (Strategy and Policy Manager)
David Knight – (Democratic Services Officer, Committees,
Governance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sabina Khan.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST AND
OTHER INTERESTS**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received at the meeting.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Abdul Mannan was elected as the Vice-Chair of this Committee.

4. UNRESTRICTED REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Establishment of the Scrutiny Sub-Committees and Appointment of Members to those Sub-Committees

The Committee received and considered a report that outlined a series of provisions relating to the coming municipal year that needed to be agreed, including:

1. Agreeing the Scrutiny Lead Member portfolios and appointing OSC members to those roles.
2. The establishment of scrutiny sub committees, approval of their terms of reference, and the appointment of scrutiny members.
3. The appointment of co-opted members of the scrutiny sub - committees; and
4. Noting the dates of OSC and Sub-Committee meetings in 2022/23.

Accordingly, the Committee:

1. **Noted** its terms of reference as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report.
2. **Approved** the creation of five Lead Scrutiny Member roles as set out in paragraph 3.2 and their portfolios as set out in **Appendix 2** of the report.
3. **Appointed** those members (detailed in **Appendix A** to these minutes) to the Lead Scrutiny Member roles as set out in **Appendix 3** of the report.
4. **Approved** the establishment of three scrutiny sub committees as set out in paragraph 3.4 and their terms of reference as set out in **Appendix 4** of the report..
5. **Approved** the membership of the three scrutiny sub committees in accordance with the nominations set out in **Appendix 5** of the report.
6. **Noted** the OSC Procedure Rules as set out in **Appendix 6** of the report..
7. **Noted** the approved calendar of meetings of the OSC and scrutiny sub committees as set out in **Appendix 7** of the report.
8. **Noted** the co-option requirements for education in accordance with legislation, as set out at Paragraphs 3.8 – 3.12 of this report and the wider co-option arrangements for scrutiny at Tower Hamlets, as set out in paragraph 3.13.
9. **Appointed** co-optees to scrutiny bodies as set out in paragraph 3.14

In addition, the Committee:

- ❖ **Asked** for clarification on the voting rights of the Muslim representative on the Children & Education Sub-Committee. (Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that the Councils Constitution states in the **Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules Section 18** that the Sub-Committee may also include a Muslim representative who can also vote in respect of education matters).
- ❖ **Agreed** that whilst any increase in the number of committees could potentially have a number of benefits such as **(a)** allowing more members to be involved in overview and scrutiny process; **(b)** scrutiny portfolios mirroring cabinet portfolios; and **(c)** facilitating the exchange of information and gaining knowledge of the various service areas. It

was nevertheless recognised that scrutiny committee meetings can take considerable effort to resource (**e.g.** physical attendance at a meeting of members and officers, the time spent by officers in preparing reports and collating agendas, and other ancillary activity) and requires that time spent at committee meetings should secure tangible outcomes that have a positive impact on the lives of local people. Accordingly, it was **agreed** that any increase in the number of committees would be subject to consideration at a future meeting.

5. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

An outline of what was discussed is set out below:

The Committee:

- ❖ Was **pleased** to note the Mayor's decision to reverse the proposals of the previous administration to close Rushmead one-stop shop.
- ❖ **Asked** to receive the previously requested key performance indicators on the Youth Services (**e.g.**, the number of sessions run by the Youth Service that have accredited outcomes for young people).
- ❖ **Placed** on record its thanks and appreciation to Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Executive Mayor) and Councillor Maium Talukdar (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning) for their attendance at this evening's meeting.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As the agenda circulated had no exempt/confidential reports and there was therefore no requirement to exclude the press and public to allow for its consideration.

7. CONCLUSION

In conclusion the Chair thanked everybody for their contributions to this evening discussions and looked forward to working with them in the development of the scrutiny function within Tower Hamlets.

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

**Chair, Councillor Musthak Ahmed
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Appendix A

Lead Scrutiny Member roles

Councillor Abdul Mannan (Vice-Chair)	(Scrutiny Lead for Housing and Regeneration)
Councillor Bodrul Choudhury	(Scrutiny Lead for Children & Education)
Councillor Abdul Malik	(Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety)
Councillor Ahmodur Khan	(Scrutiny Lead for Adults and Health Services)
Councillor Sabina Khan	(Scrutiny Lead for Resources)*

*Confirmed subsequent to the meeting