

Extraordinary General Purposes Committee

Agenda

Tuesday, 28 March 2023 at 5.30 p.m.
Committee Room - Tower Hamlets Town Hall,
160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ

Chair: Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled

Vice Chair: Councillor Musthak Ahmed

Members:

Councillor Kabir Ahmed, Councillor Asma Begum, Councillor Maisha Begum, Councillor Abu Chowdhury, Councillor James King, Councillor Maium Talukdar and Councillor Abdal Ullah

Substitutes: Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Councillor Mufeedah Bustin, Councillor Sirajul Islam, Councillor Amin Rahman and Councillor Asma Islam

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

Contact for further enquiries:

Matthew Mannion, Democratic Services,
matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk

020 7364 4651

Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ

<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>



Public Information

Viewing or Participating in Committee Meetings

The meeting will be broadcast live on the Council's website. A link to the website is detailed below. The press and public are encouraged to watch this meeting on line.

Please note: Whilst the meeting is open to the public, the public seating in the meeting room for observers may be limited due to health and safety measures. You are advised to contact the Democratic Services Officer to reserve a place.

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A Guide to General Purposes Committee

This Committee is responsible for a range of non executive functions, including electoral matters, personnel issues and appeals. It also has responsibility for considering and making recommendations to Full Council on the introduction, amendment or revocation of new byelaws and can consider and make non-material changes to the Council's Constitution.

The Committee is made up of nine Members of the Council as appointed by Full Council. Political balance rules apply to the Committee. Each political group may also appoint up to three substitutes. The quorum is three Members of the Committee.

The full terms of reference for the committee is set out in the - Council Constitution

Public Engagement

Meetings of the Committee are open to the public to attend, and a timetable for meeting dates and deadlines can be found on the council's website.

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

General Purposes Committee

Tuesday, 28 March 2023

5.30 p.m.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (PAGES 7 - 8)

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, please see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are reminded to declare the nature of the interest and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it's the Members' responsibility to declare any interests and to update their register of interest form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of your interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services

2. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 Update on Senior Recruitment (Pages 9 - 12)

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

In view of the contents of the remaining items on the agenda the Committee is recommended to adopt the following motion:

“That, under 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 for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information defined as Exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.”

EXEMPT SECTION (Pink Papers)

The exempt committee papers in the agenda will contain information, which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. If you do not wish to retain these papers after the meeting, please hand them to the Committee Officer present.



Next Meeting of the General Purposes Committee

25th May 2023 at 6.30pm to be held in Committee Room - Tower Hamlets Town Hall,
160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ



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Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

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Agenda Item 1

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests. In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

Guidance on Predetermination and Bias

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

Further Advice contact: Janet Fasan, Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 4800.

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>General Purposes Committee</p> <p>28th March 2023</p>	
<p>Report of: Director of Director of Workforce, OD & Business Support</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Update on Senior Recruitment</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Musrat Zaman. Director of Workforce, OD & Business Support
Wards affected	None

Executive Summary

This report updates Members on recruitment to senior posts.

Recommendations:

The General Purposes Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the current position on the recruitment to senior management vacancies in the Council structure and any interim arrangements in place.
2. To agree to formally launch the process for recruiting a new permanent Chief Executive.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 General Purposes Committee has responsibility for the appointment to Chief/Deputy Chief Officer posts. It is usual practice for the Committee to establish Appointment Sub-Committees to fulfil the recruitment process and to receive regular progress reports.
- 1.3 Section 5.2 of the Officer Employment Procedure Rules states the engagement of Chief Officers, to permanent positions or interim positions of over three (3) months, will be through the normal recruitment process overseen by the General Purposes Committee.

2. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

2.1 Background

General Purposes Committee received an update in February 2023. This report sets out the current status of recruitment to vacant senior roles in the corporate structure.

2.2 Senior Management vacancies and progress of recruitment

The detail of the progress on the recruitment to senior roles is set out in the table below. This also includes any interim arrangements.

Job title and directorate	Current arrangements	Comments
Chief Executive (HPS and Returning Officer)	Steve Halsey was appointed as interim CE at Full Council on 1 March 2023	It is proposed that this permanent role is advertised
Corporate Director, Resources	Caroline Holland started as interim Corporate Director and S.151 officer on 9 January 2023	It is proposed that this permanent role is advertised
Director of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)	Nisar Visram is due to leave on the 26 th of May 2023	It is proposed that this permanent role is advertised

3. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The Council is committed to equalities and such considerations will be part of the recruitment process and informs the procurement process. All posts are recruited to on merit. Recruitment to the vacancies will be carried out in accordance with the Council's procedures.

4. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 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.

- 4.2 Recruitment to the senior management structure enables the Council to deliver excellent services for residents and deliver the associated financial saving.
- 4.3 Risks associated with recruitment will be mitigated by the engagement of specialised recruitment adviser(s). The procurement process is underway to identify a specialist recruitment agency to work with us on the identification of suitable candidates.
- 4.4 The roles are all member appointments, and an Appointments Sub Committee will be set up for each role. The CEO role will also involve wider engagement of members, external stakeholders and internal staff during the selection process.
- 4.5 There are no other specific implications arising from this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 The posts are part of the core management team structure agreed and sufficient base budget funding has been set aside to meet the cost associated with those posts.

6. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 6.1 This report provides an update on Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer Recruitment Activity and extensions to interim appointments and there are no legal implications in relation to this.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- none

Appendices

Officer contact details for documents:

- Musrat Zaman musrat.zaman@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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