

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 4 JUNE 2024**

**COMMITTEE ROOM - TOWER HAMLETS TOWN HALL, 160 WHITECHAPEL  
ROAD, LONDON E1 1BJ**

**Members Present in Person:**

Councillor Ahmodul Kabir  
Councillor Musthak Ahmed  
Councillor Shafi Ahmed  
Councillor Abu Chowdhury  
Councillor Gulam Kibria  
Choudhury  
Councillor Peter Golds  
Councillor Rebaka Sultana

**Members In Attendance Virtually:**

Councillor Maisha Begum  
Councillor Asma Islam

**Officers Present in Person:**

Farhad Ahmed (Head of Governor Services)  
Joel West (Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

**Officers In Attendance Virtually:**

Richard Ward (Head of Commercial & Contracts)

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None were declared.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR 2024/25**

Proposed by Councillor Abu Chowdhury and seconded by Councillor Musthak Ahmed it was:

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Councillor Shafi Ahmed be elected as the Vice Chair for the General Purposes Committee for 2024/25.

### **3. MINUTES**

The unrestricted minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

### **4. WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the 2024/25 work plan.

### **5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **5.1 General Purposes Committee, Terms of Reference 2024/25**

Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committees) introduced the report that asked the Committee them to consider and note their terms of reference and delegated powers. The report also set out the dates of scheduled committee meetings for the year. Members asked that advance notice be provided of any amended start times during Ramadan.

**RESOLVED** that the General Purposes Committee

1. Notes its terms of reference, quorum, membership and dates of future meetings as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report.

#### **5.2 LA Governor Appointment Report June 2024**

Farhad Ahmed, Head of School Governance and Traded Services, introduced the report that set out details of applicants who have applied to be nominated as the local authority governor at Tower Hamlets maintained schools. Farhad provided some additional detail on the applicants and the work currently underway to encourage local residents to apply to be school governors in Tower Hamlets.

The Committee noted that despite being raised at the previous Committee meeting, the application forms for nominees still made it difficult to compare length of time resident in the borough. Farhad explained that this error in the forms had now been corrected and future nominations reports would be clearer in this regard.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee:

1. Agree to nominate the applicants to the positions that are available for local authority governors at maintained schools in Tower Hamlets as set out in the report.

#### **5.3 Elections Update**

The Chair informed members that the Head of Electoral Services had informed him that due to the urgent and significant additional work arising in the elections team following the recent General Election announcements, the

Head of Electoral Services was unable to supply an elections update for consideration at this meeting. Accordingly, the Chair asked the Committee to agree to the item's withdrawal from the agenda.

Some Committee members indicated dissatisfaction with the lack of opportunity for the Committee to feed-into elections preparation.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee agreed that:

1. The elections update is withdrawn from this agenda, with a report on the outcome of the GLA and General Elections be received at the next meeting.

#### **5.4 Constitution Update**

Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committees) provided the Committee with an update on Constitution updates, including:

- The Constitution Working Group (CWG) was due to meet on 19 June (having had to postpone at the last minute from end of May) and it would be looking at reports from ADSO as well as some potential actions relating to the LGA Peer Review. The next meeting of GPC would receive an update on that work.
- Following a request from Members a second set of documents would go to CWG members later this week seeking input and feedback on the preferred direction of Constitution review work.
- Some minor changes to the Constitution were likely to be required following the conclusion of the senior structure review the Chief Executive was undertaking. Any such changes would be reported at the relevant time.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the verbal update on Constitution changes.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

None.

#### **7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

A motion to exclude press and public was not required.

#### **8. EXEMPT MINUTES**

None.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Ahmodul Kabir  
General Purposes Committee