

# General Purposes Committee

## Agenda

**Tuesday, 4 June 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**  
**Committee Room - Tower Hamlets Town Hall,**  
**160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ**

### Members:

**Chair:** Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

**Vice Chair:** TBC

Councillor Musthak Ahmed, Councillor Shafi Ahmed, Councillor Maisha Begum, Councillor Abu Chowdhury, Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Councillor Marc Francis, Councillor Peter Golds and Councillor Rebaka Sultana

**Substitutes:** Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled, Councillor Abdul Malik, Councillor Bellal Uddin, Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury, Councillor Asma Islam and Councillor Sabina Khan

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

### Contact for further enquiries:

Joel West, Democratic Services,  
joel.west@towerhamlets.gov.uk  
020 7364 4207

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, 4 June 2024

6.30 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. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR 2024/25

To elect a vice-chair for the Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

#### 3. MINUTES (PAGES 9 - 12)

To agree the unrestricted minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27 February 2024.

#### 4. WORK PLAN (PAGES 13 - 18)

To review the Committee's work plan for the current municipal year.

#### 5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

##### 5.1 General Purposes Committee, Terms of Reference 2024/25 (Pages 19 - 28)

##### 5.2 LA Governor Appointment Report June 2024 (To Follow)

##### 5.3 Elections Update (To Follow)



**5.4 Constitution Update (To Follow)**

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

**7. 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.

**8. EXEMPT MINUTES**

To agree the exempt minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on ....

**Next Meeting of the General Purposes Committee**

Tuesday, 1 October 2024 at 6.30 p.m. to be held in Committee Room - 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: Linda Walker, Interim Director, Legal and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 4348.

## **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.



**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**Members Present in Person:**

Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Chair)  
Councillor Saied Ahmed  
Councillor Kabir Ahmed  
Councillor Sabina Akhtar  
Councillor Asma Begum  
Councillor Rebaka Sultana  
Councillor Maium Talukdar

**Apologies:**

Councillor Peter Golds

**Officers Present in Person:**

Matthew Mannion (Head of Democratic Services)  
Joel West (Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

**Officers In Attendance Virtually:**

Lorraine Feyi-Shonubi (Governor Services Officer)

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None were declared.

**2. MINUTES**

The unrestricted minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12 December 2023 were agreed as a correct record, subject to noting that Councillor Asma Begum was present virtually.

**3. WORK PLAN**

**RESOLVED** that the work plan be noted.

#### **4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

##### **4.1 Local Authority Governor Applications Feb 2024**

Lorraine Feyi-Shonubi, Governance and Clerking Manager, introduced the report that set out details of applicants who had applied to be nominated as the local authority governor at Tower Hamlets maintained schools. The report also included, at Appendix A, supplementary information on the processes and support mechanisms involved in identifying and nominating suitable candidates for the position of Local Authority governor, in response to a request made by the Committee at its previous meeting.

Further to questions from the Committee on the confidential appendices, Lorraine explained that the question regarding applicants' length of residency in the borough was ambiguous, leading to differing interpretations by candidates on whether it related to days or months, and accordingly asked members to disregard the figures presented under those sections. Lorraine explained that the form had since been amended and the problem rectified.

Regarding Appendix A to the report, members welcomed the steps taken to increase applications for, and diversity among school governors. It was noted that further information on the initiatives, additional budgets and a detailed analysis on the results of this work would be welcomed by the Committee.

However, some member of the Committee indicated disappointment with the information presented which they felt:

- did not explain how the Council could ensure that local authority nominated governors sufficiently represented the local community; and
- did not explain why so many applicants for local authority nominations came from outside of the borough; and
- did not include sufficiently detailed information on the selection criteria of governors, as had been requested.

Members indicated they were content to approve the nominees as listed, but asked that these concerns be addressed in full at the next available opportunity.

**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.

##### **4.2 Constitution Updates**

Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services, introduced the report that asked the Committee to agree some terms of reference changes for a number of Committees and also provided a brief update on the work of the Constitution Working Group (CWG). On the latter, Matthew explained that CWG had been developing initial workstreams and that whilst those were being developed the Association of Democratic Services Officers had been

asked to undertake an initial review of the Constitution to ensure its legal compliance and to offer any other suggestions for improvements. A meeting of the CWG was scheduled for 12 March 2024, but given the recent departure of the Council's Monitoring Officer, the date may need to be reconsidered.

Further to point 9 in the General Purposes Committee proposed new terms of reference, members asked that further advice be provided on whether political proportionality should also be reflected in addition to the existing provision for ethnicity and gender balance.

**RESOLVED** that the General Purposes Committee:

1. Agree the updates to the Constitution set out in Appendices 1 – 2 to the report and in Paragraph 9 of the report
2. Note that the changes listed in Appendix 1 to the report come into force for the new municipal year.
3. To note the remaining contents of the report including the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board set out at Appendix 3 to the report.
4. Requests further advice on the implications of implementing a political proportionality element to any appeal sub committees within the terms of reference of General Purposes Committee.

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

None.

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

A resolution to exclude press and public was not required.

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Shafi Ahmed  
General Purposes Committee

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# **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and ACTION LIST 2024/25**

Page 13

Agenda Item 4

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## ACTIONS LIST

Action number	Title	Action Owner	Originating Meeting/Item	Due Date / Comment
1.	LA Governors report - deep dive into the process for selection and preference of local authority governors.	Farhad Ahmed, Head of Governor Services	December 2023 / February 2024	Committee indicated the report of February 2024 was not sufficiently detailed. See minutes of 27 Feb 2024 meeting.
2.	Makeup of appeals sub committees of General Purposes Committee	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services	February 2024	To clarify if political proportionality as well as ethnic and gender balance should be reflected in the establishment of appeals sub committees established by GPC.

Page 14

**N.B. once concluded** - actions should remain on the list marked 'complete' for the remainder of the municipal year.

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024/25**

<b>4 JUNE 2024</b>			
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>OTHER CTTEE MEETINGS</b>
1. Annual administrative reports	To receive the ordinary annual reports such as to note terms of reference, membership, quorum and meeting dates.	Matthew Mannion Head of Democratic Services	
2. Local Authority Governor Applications	To endorse nominations for appointments to Local Authority Schools	Farhad Ahmed Head of Governance Information and Traded Services	
3. Constitution Update	To receive any updates to the Constitution and/or updates on ongoing constitution reviews.	Matthew Mannion Head of Democratic Services	
4. Review of GLA election May 2024	To review learning from the recent GLA election.	Robert Cutis, Head of Electoral Services	

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024/25**

<b>1 OCTOBER 2024</b>			
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>OTHER CTTEE MEETINGS</b>
1. Local Authority Governor Applications	To endorse nominations for appointments to Local Authority Schools	Farhad Ahmed, Head of School Governance, Information and Traded Services	
2. Constitution Update	To receive any updates to the Constitution and/or updates on ongoing constitution reviews.	Matthew Mannion Head of Democratic Services	
3. Review of polling places	To note and inform the annual review of polling places in the borough.	Robert Cutis, Head of Electoral Services	




**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024/25**

<b>2 DECEMBER 2024</b>			
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>OTHER CTTEE MEETINGS</b>
1. Local Authority Governor Applications	To endorse nominations for appointments to Local Authority Schools	Farhad Ahmed, Head of School Governance, Information and Traded Services	
2. Constitution Update	To receive any updates to the Constitution and/or updates on ongoing constitution reviews.	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services	
3. Update on the Elections Act 2022	To receive an updates on the application of the requirements of the Act.	Robert Cutis, Head of Electoral Services	

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024/25**

<b>17 MARCH 2025</b>			
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>OTHER CTTEE MEETINGS</b>
1. Local Authority Governor Applications	To endorse nominations for appointments to Local Authority Schools	Farhad Ahmed, Head of Governance Information and Traded Services	
2. Constitution Update	To receive any updates to the Constitution and/or updates on ongoing constitution reviews.	Matthew Mannion Head of Democratic Services	

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>General Purposes Committee</b>  4 June 2024	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Linda Walker, Interim Director Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Open
<b>General Purposes Committee, Terms of Reference 2024/25</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);

## Executive Summary

All Committees of Council receive a terms of reference report annually asking them to consider and note their terms of reference and delegated powers.

### Recommendations:

The General Purposes Committee is recommended to:

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

### 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This report is for the information of the Committee and no specific decisions are required.

### 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 No alternative practice in respect of this report occurs in the Authority.

### 3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Full Council held on 15 May 2024, Council re-established General Purposes Committee, appointed its membership and delegated to it a range of duties and responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution.
- 3.2 Following the Annual Meeting of the Council, the various committees established note their Terms of Reference, quorum and membership for the forthcoming municipal year. These are set out in the appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

3.3 The Committee's meeting dates for the remainder of the year were also agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council. The dates of General Purposes Committee meetings in 2024/25 are attached at Appendix 3.

3.4 In accordance with the calendar, meetings are scheduled to take place at 6.30pm.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 When the calendar of meetings was set up consideration was given to avoiding school holidays and known religious holidays and other important dates where at all possible.

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 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.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 There are no specific statutory implications arising from this noting report.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 The noting of the terms of reference, quorum, membership and dates of future meetings do not give rise to financial implications.

#### **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 The terms of reference for the General Purposes Committee are as set out in the Council's Constitution agreed by Council.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- NONE.

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Committee Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 – Membership of the Committee in 2024/25
- Appendix 3 – Dates of scheduled meetings of the Committee in 2024/25

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

**List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE.

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## 9. General Purposes Committee

**Summary Description:** The Committee is responsible for a range of non-executive functions including matters such as; electoral matters, personnel issues and byelaws, that have not been delegated to other Committees.

**Membership:** 9 Councillors

Functions	Delegation of Functions
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	-
<p>1. To exercise powers in relation to the holding of elections and the maintenance of the electoral register including:</p> <p>(a) the provision of assistance at European Parliamentary elections;</p> <p>(b) power to make submissions to the Local Government Commission in relation to the boundaries of the borough or ward boundaries; and</p> <p>(c) the appointment of a proper officer for the purposes of giving various notices in relation to elections and referenda (e.g. in relation to the verification number for petitions for a referendum under Local Government Act 2000).</p>	None
2. Appointments of officers, Members or other persons to external bodies on behalf of the Council, where the appointment is not the responsibility of the Mayor	The Monitoring Officer is authorised to make or amend Committee/ Subcommittee appointments in accordance with Section 24 of this Constitution (from the nominations received from Members/Groups as required)
3. To recommend to Council the introduction, amendment or revocation of byelaws	None
4. Appointment and revocation of local authority school governors	None
5. To make changes to the membership and substitute membership of committees appointed by the Council	The Monitoring Officer is authorised to make or amend

and their subordinate bodies, consistent with the proportionality rules	Committee/ Sub-committee appointments in accordance with Section 24 of this Constitution (from the nominations received from Members/Groups as required)
6. To consider and make changes to the Council's Constitution upon the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer	
7. To consider and determine any appeal in respect of any function for which the Council is responsible (except where statutory arrangements exist or where the appeal function is delegated elsewhere in the Constitution) including: (a) Education awards member level; (b) Appeals by governing bodies;	None
8. Appeals in respect of refusals to register premises under the Marriage Act 1994 or the attachment of any condition to an approval	None
9. To establish Appeals Sub-Committees as appropriate to be convened by the Monitoring Officer or Director of Workforce, OD and Business Support as appropriate for determination of the above appeals referred to in paragraph 7 above. Such Sub-Committees to comprise a maximum of five (5) Members of the Council with a quorum of three (3) and as far as possible to reflect ethnicity and gender balance	The Monitoring Officer is authorised to make or amend Committee/ Sub-committee appointments in accordance with Section 24 of this Constitution. (from the nominations received from Members/Groups as required)
10. Any other functions which under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, may not be the responsibility of the Executive and which are not delegated elsewhere under this Constitution.	None
11. In cases of emergency or extreme urgency any non-executive function delegated under this Constitution whether or not reserved to the Council and where the Chief Executive does not consider it appropriate to exercise his/ her power in relation to such decisions under Part B Section 24 of this Constitution	None

**Quorum:** 3 Members of the Committee



<p align="center"><b>GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE</b> (Nine members of the Council)</p>		
<i><b>Aspire Group (5)</b></i>	<i><b>Labour Group (3)</b></i>	<i><b>Ungrouped (1)</b></i>
<p>Councillor Musthak Ahmed Councillor Shafi Ahmed Councillor Abu Chowdhury Councillor Ahmodul Kabir (Chair) Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled</p> <p><u>Substitutes</u></p> <p>Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury Councillor Abdul Malik Councillor Bellal Uddin</p>	<p>Councillor Maisha Begum Councillor Marc Francis Councillor Rebaka Sultana</p> <p><u>Substitutes</u></p> <p>Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury Councillor Asma Islam Councillor Sabina Khan</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Golds</p>

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**Dates of General Purposes Committee meetings 2024/25**

- 4 Jun 2024 6.30 p.m.
- 1 Oct 2024 6.30 p.m.
- 2 Dec 2024 6.30 p.m.
- 17 Mar 2025 6.30 p.m. Takes place during Ramadan, Meeting start time may be amended.
- 9 Jun 2025 6.30 p.m. - PROVISIONAL

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Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>General Purposes Committee</b>  June 2024	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Steve Reddy, Corporate Director (Children’s Services)	<b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted or Exempt]
<b>Local Authority Governor Application</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Farhad Ahmed
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

### Executive Summary

This report sets out for Members details of applicants who have applied to be nominated as the local authority governor at Tower Hamlets maintained schools.

### Recommendations:

The General Purposes Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the applications and agree to nominate the applicants to the positions that are available for local authority governors at maintained schools in Tower Hamlets.

### 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the process for the appointment of local authority governors to maintained schools. The Regulations allow for the local authority to nominate a person to fill the position of local authority governor. It is for the governing body to appoint that person if the governing body considers the person meets any eligibility criteria that it has set.
- 1.2 The governor nominations in this report are to fill the current LA governor vacancies.

### 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 To improve the efficiency for appointing local authority governors to school vacancies, the General Purposes Committee at a meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2006 made the decision to delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Children, Schools & Families) to appoint and revoke the appointment of local authority governors, except where there was a dispute about an appointment or there was more than one applicant for a post in which case the Committee would decide the appointment.

2.2 At a meeting on 29 November 2011, the Council resolved to amend the constitution and the terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee were amended. The committee is now responsible for the appointment and revocation of local authority school governors.

2.3 As this is a function of the local authority there is no alternative option.

### **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

3.1 Applications to be nominated as the Local Authority governor to 3 schools are attached as Appendices to this report in the restricted area of the agenda.

#### **3.2 APPLICATIONS**

##### **New appointments**

a) NONE

##### **Reappointments**

b) The Headteacher and Chair of **Columbia Primary School** support the re-appointment of **Juliana Iwobi** - Application is enclosed as **Appendix 1**.

c) The Interim Headteacher and Chair of **Stephen Hawking School** support the re-appointment of **Arrash Yassaee** - Application is enclosed as **Appendix 2**.

### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Local Authority Governors are drawn from all sectors of the community. There is a mechanism in place to ensure, as far as possible, that the composition of governing bodies reflects the makeup of the school and wider community.

### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 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.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 There are no further specific statutory implications arising from the report.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 *Section 19 of the Education Act 2002 requires each maintained school to have a governing body, which is a body corporate constituted in accordance with the Regulations. Each maintained school is required to have an instrument of government, which specifies the membership of the governing body. Regulations require a governing body to include person appointed as a local authority governor and for a number of associated matters.*

7.2 *The 2012 Regulations detail the composition of the governing body and the appointment of governors, including local authority governors. The 2012 Regulations provide that there can be only one local authority nominated governor. A local authority governor is a person who is nominated by the local authority and is appointed by the governing body after being satisfied that the person meets any eligibility criteria set by the governing body. It is for the governing body to decide whether the Local Authority nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and meets any eligibility criteria they have set. If the governing body has set eligibility criteria, then these should be notified at the meeting, so the Committee can consider them before making a nomination.*

7.3 *Schedule 4 to the 2012 Regulations set out the circumstances in which a person is qualified or disqualified from holding or continuing in office as a governor, details of which are as follows –*

- *A person who is a registered pupil at a school is disqualified from holding office as a governor of the school.*
- *A person must be aged 18 or over at the date of appointment to be qualified to be a governor.*
- *A person cannot hold more than one governor post at the same school at the same time.*
- *A governor who fails to attend meetings for six months without the consent of the governing body becomes disqualified from continuing to hold office.*
- *A person is disqualified from holding or continuing in office if: (1) his or her estate is sequestered (under bankruptcy) or the person is subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order; (2) he or she is, broadly speaking, disqualified from being a company director; (3) he or she has been removed from office as trustee of a charity; (4) he or she has a criminal conviction of a specified kind within a specified time period; (5) he or she is subject to a specified prohibition or restriction on employment, such as being barred from 'regulated activity' relating to children under the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; or (6) he or she refuses to apply for a criminal records certificate when requested to do so by the clerk to the governing body.*

- *A person is disqualified from appointment as a local authority governor if he or she is eligible to be a staff governor.*
  - 7.4 *Once appointed, a governor will hold office for a fixed period of four years from the date of appointment, except in a limited number of circumstances. This does not prevent a governor from being elected for a further term. A governor may resign, be removed or be disqualified from holding office in the circumstances specified in the relevant Regulations.*
  - 7.5 *In determining whether to appoint an authority governor, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. The Committee will wish to be satisfied that the process of selection is fair, open and consistent with furtherance of these equality objectives.*
  - 7.6 *The Council's Constitution gives the General Purposes Committee responsibility for appointment of local authority school governors.*
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

- LA governor applications

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

Farhad Ahmed



By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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