

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2006

**COMMITTEE ROOM C1,1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Marc Francis (Chair)
Councillor M. Shahid Ali
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Clair Hawkins
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Officers Present:

Sara Williams	Assistant Chief Executive
Isabella Freeman	Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)
Tim Revell	Interim Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement
Tim Hogan	Democratic Services

At the request of the Chair all present introduced themselves.

Councillor Marc Francis in the Chair

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

MOVED by Councillor M.Shahid Ali and **SECONDED** by Councillor Peter Golds

RESOLVED

That Councillor Clair Hawkins be elected Vice-Chair of the General Purposes Committee for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 15th February be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

The Chair requested officers to prepare a progress report on the Review of Polling Places for consideration at the November meeting of the Committee, the report to include a review of polling district, BCT1.

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 General Purposes Committee - Terms of Reference, Membership and Dates of Meetings

RESOLVED

That the Committee's Terms of Reference , membership details and schedule of future meetings, which are to be held on 15th November, 2006 and 14th February 2007 at 7.30 pm, be noted.

5.2 Appointments to External Bodies

The report was introduced by Mr Tim Revell, Interim Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement who drew attention to the guidance note for Members appointed to membership of External Bodies included at Appendix B to the report. Mr Revell also drew attention to the tabled revised schedule which included the nominations of the political groups on the Council.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the revised schedule of appointments to External Bodies for the Municipal Year 2006 / 2007 attached as an appendix to these minutes be agreed;
- 2 That the guidance for members on external bodies at Appendix B to the report be noted;
- 3 That an appropriate pro-forma be drawn up for use by Members and officers appointed to external bodies so as to enable Members and officers to report back on a six monthly basis;
- 4 That the letter of appointment include details of the Council's Calendar of Meetings for 2006/2007 so as to avoid where ever possible commitment clashes;

- 5 That External Bodies be invited to provide the Council with electronic versions of minutes, agendas and constitutional arrangements to build up an electronic reference library for use by members and officers; and
- 6 That the Guidance Note for Members representing the Council on External Bodies be forwarded for information to the Council's Standards Committee, as part of its remit to oversee the Council's ethical governance arrangements.

5.3 Amendments to the Constitution

The report was introduced by Ms Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal). Ms Freeman drew attention to a tabled addendum to the report. After a brief discussion

RESOLVED

- 1 That the amendments to the Constitution detailed in the report and shown at Appendices 1 and 2 and in Appendix 3 attached to the tabled addendum be agreed.

5.4 Proposed Drinking Control Zones - Bethnal Green and Whitechapel

The report was introduced by Ms Sara Williams, Assistant Chief Executive who drew attention to the tabled comments of the Cabinet which incorporated the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the Licensing Committee. During discussion of the report Ms Williams responded to a number of detailed questions from Members including questions relating to the role and powers of the Police, the boundaries of the Zones, the consultation process and monitoring and evaluation of the schemes. Following discussion

RESOLVED

- 1 That the proposal to undertake statutory consultation for a Drinking Control Zone in accordance with the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (and associated regulations), in the Museum Gardens area indicated on the plan attached at Appendix B to the report be endorsed;
- 2 That the proposal to confirm the Drinking Control Zone currently running as a pilot initiative in the Whitechapel area, as indicated on the plan attached at Appendix A to the report, and to extend the scope of the zone to cover the streets around Vallance Road, for the reasons outlined in paragraph 7.3 of the report be endorsed; and
- 3 That Council be recommended to agree that the Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to:

- (a) consider any representations received to consultation referred to in 1 above :
- (b) approve the making of the proposed Drinking Control Zones for the areas indicated on the plans attached at Appendices A and B to the report; and
- (c) to consider the inclusion of any additional areas within the Drinking Control Zones, referred to above, identified during the consultation as appropriate for such inclusion.

5.5 Filling of Casual Vacancies on Committees/Panels

The Chair drew attention to a tabled report

RESOLVED

- 1 That Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed's resignation from membership of the Fostering Panel be noted; and the appointment of Councillor Ann Jackson to fill the casual vacancy arising be agreed; and
- 2 That Councillor Clair Hawkins resignation from membership of the Pensions and Accounts Committee be noted; and the appointment of Councillor Joshua Peck to fill the casual vacancy arising be agreed.

6. ANY OTHER SECTION BUSINESS ONE THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

No business under this heading was considered.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

**Councillor Marc Francis
Chair, General Purposes
Committee**