

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2006

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

Members Present:

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

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Simon Rouse (for agenda item number 4.1)

Officers Present:

Sara Williams – (Assistant Chief Executive)
Isabella Freeman – (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])
Tim Hogan – (Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rajib Ahmed for whom Councillor Stephanie Eaton deputised.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence and the deputising arrangements be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman declared a personal interest in agenda item 4.1 - Appointment to External Bodies – the declaration was made on the basis that he was one of the Council's representatives on the Board of East London Homes.

3. SECTION ONE MINUTES - 14TH JUNE 2006

The Chair **MOVED** and it was

RESOLVED

That the Section One Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 14th June , 2006 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES

The report was introduced by Mr Hogan, Democratic Services and after discussion the Chair **MOVED** and it was

RESOLVED

- (i) That further appointments be made to the external bodies for the Municipal Year 20062/007 as attached at Appendix A to these Minutes.
- (ii) That the proposal received from East End Homes to change its articles to reflect the reduction in the number of directors appointed by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, from 5 to 2, be endorsed.

4.2 ELECTIONS UPDATE

The report was introduced by Ms Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services). Ms Freeman tabled a list of wards showing as at May, 2006, the numbers of electors per ward together with a table illustrating the provisions contained in the first Commencement Order for the Electoral Administration Act, 2006.

Discussion then ensued on members experiences of the recent Borough elections. Ms Freeman advised the Committee of the steps she and her staff had been able to take under existing legislation and contrasted the situation with the new legislative changes designed in part to combat postal and proxy voting fraud. The Chair **MOVED** and it was

RESOLVED

- 1 - That the report be noted and a further update report be submitted to the Committee's February 2007 meeting;
- 2 - That consideration be given to exploring the use of venues for polling places other than schools;
- 3 - That an article be drafted for inclusion in East End Life detailing the changes to electoral law; and
- 4 - That a seminar for members on elections be arranged.

5. FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES/PANELS - ORAL REPORT

Mr Hogan tabled a schedule which detailed the nominations received from the political groups on the Council. The Chair **MOVED** and it was

RESOLVED

That the schedule of casual vacancies as tabled be agreed.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair **MOVED** and it was

RESOLVED

That the Committee's February, 2007 meeting due to the prior commitments of members be re-scheduled from the 14th to 13th February, 2007.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance and closed the meeting at 8.34 p.m.

Councillor Marc Francis, Chair
General Purposes Committee