

Meeting of the

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15 November 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Committee Room, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove
Crescent, London, E14 2BG

Members:	Deputies (if any):
Chair: Councillor Marc Francis Vice-Chair: Councillor Clair Hawkins	
Councillor M. Shahid Ali Councillor Peter Golds Councillor Rajib Ahmed Councillor Fozol Miah Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman Councillor Simon Rouse	Councillor Philip Briscoe, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Peter Golds) Councillor Stephanie Eaton, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Rajib Ahmed) Councillor Shafiqul Haque, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Marc Francis, M. Shahid Ali, Clair Hawkins and Motin Uz Zaman) Councillor Waiseul Islam, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Fozol Miah)

[Note: The quorum for this body is 3 Members].

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact: Tim Hogan, Democratic Services, Tel: 020 7364 4850, E-mail: tim.hogan@towerhamlets.gov.uk

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15 November 2006

7.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992.

Note from the Chief Executive

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members must declare any **personal interests** they have in any item on the agenda or as they arise during the course of the meeting. Members must orally indicate to which item their interest relates. If a Member has a personal interest he/she must also consider whether or not that interest is a **prejudicial personal interest** and take the necessary action. When considering whether or not they have a declarable interest, Members should consult pages 181 to 184 of the Council's Constitution. Please note that all Members present at a Committee meeting (in whatever capacity) are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests.

A **personal interest** is, generally, one that would affect a Member (either directly or through a connection with a relevant person or organisation) more than other people in London, in respect of the item of business under consideration at the meeting. If a member of the public, knowing all the relevant facts, would view a Member's personal interest in the item under consideration as so substantial that it would appear likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest, then the Member has a **prejudicial personal interest**.

Consequences:

- If a Member has a **personal interest**: he/she must declare the interest but can stay, speak and vote.
- If the Member has **prejudicial personal interest**: he/she must declare the interest, cannot speak or vote on the item and must leave the room.

When declaring an interest, Members are requested to specify the nature of the interest, the particular agenda item to which the interest relates and to also specify whether the interest is of a personal or personal and prejudicial nature. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and is also designed to enable a full entry to be made in the Statutory Register of Interests which is kept by the Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

3. SECTION ONE MINUTES - 14TH JUNE 2006

1 - 4

To approve as a correct record the Section One minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14th June , 2006 (**Copy attached**)

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4 .1 APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES

5 - 14

All Wards

This report is concerned with appointments to external bodies. An updated schedule of proposed appointments will be tabled at the meeting.

4 .2 ELECTIONS UPDATE

15 - 22

All Wards

The report was introduced by Ms Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) . The report provided an update on polling station reviews and other legislation relating to the conduct of elections. Ms Freeman tabled a breakdown of electoral wards in the borough and a table showing the provisions of the First Commencement Order for the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Members went to recount their experience of the recent Borough elections. Ms Freeman detailed the steps were available to tackle electoral fraud and contrasted them with the new legislative provisions.

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

23 - 24

All Wards

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair **MOVED** and it was

RESOLVED

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

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

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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**

Agenda Item 4.1

Committee General Purposes Committee	Date 15th November, 2006	Classification Unrestricted	Report No. GPC006/067	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Interim Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement Originating Officer(s): Tim Revell / Tim Hogan		Title APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES Ward(s) affected: All		

SUMMARY

1. The Committee is requested to consider nominations to the external bodies received from the political groups on the Council. The Committee at its meeting on 14th June, 2006 deferred consideration of a number of appointments and since the meeting a number of organisation have requested the Council to consider its nominations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That further appointments be made to the external bodies for the Municipal Year 2006/2007 as listed in Appendix A to the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"

Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection

External Bodies File
General Purposes Minute Book

Tim Hogan
020 7364 4850

BACKGROUND

3. The General Purposes Committee was established by Council on 13th April, 2005 to enable the swift determination of non-strategic issues, including appointments to external bodies. The Committee at its meeting on 14th June, 2006 considered a report on the appointment of members and officers to external bodies for 2006/2007 and deferred consideration of a number of appointments. Since the June meeting of the Committee a number of organisations have requested the Council to consider its nominations.

The Committee at its meeting held on 14th June, 2006 agreed:-

- 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.
4. The Committee is requested to consider further nominations for appointment to external bodies, which have been received from the political groups on the Council.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

5. Participating in the work of external bodies is a key part of the role of elected members but is different in nature from other aspects such as being a member of a local authority executive or sitting on regulatory committees. In some cases it will involve actively representing and defending the authority's

interests on local authority associations. In others it will involve becoming a trustee of a charity or a director of a company limited by guarantee. In this case members have a duty to act in the best interests of the organisation to which they have been appointed rather than exclusively pursue the authority's interests. There are potential tensions in carrying out this role effectively. To this end the guidance considered at the last meeting was formulated to assist members in carrying out this role. The guidance was circulated to all members of the Council and placed on the members' intranet.

6. A key part of this role is ensuring that information about the activities of external bodies is communicated to the Council. Much of this may take place through day to day contact with colleagues or with officers responsible for that area of work.
7. To ensure that this communication takes place consistently and effectively a framework has been agreed whereby Members appointed by the Council to external bodies will report regularly to this Committee on the work of the organisation with particular emphasis on any implications for the Council.

CONSULTATION

8. The political groups on the Council have been consulted prior to the finalising of the schedule. A revised schedule will be tabled at the meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

10. There are no legal comments arising from this report.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no immediate equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

ANTI POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report.

SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

13. There are no immediate SAGE implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

14. The appointment of representatives to external bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with community. The appointment of representatives to external bodies also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community. The introduction of more robust reporting arrangements will reduce the risk of misunderstanding between external bodies and the Council.

Appendix A

ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF REPS. TO BE APPOINTED	ON-GOING APPOINTMENTS	CURRENT APPOINTMENTS	LABOUR GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	RESPECT GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	CONSERVATIVE GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	APPOINTED AT GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 15 th November, 2006
Futures Charitable Trust	1		Cllr Khaled Khan (appointed GPC 16/6/05)					
Merchant Navy Welfare Board	1		Cllr Akikur Kahn (appointed at GPC 16/6/05)					
Norton Folgate Almshouse Charities	1 vacancy		Cllr Bill Turner Ms Jill Iremonger (appointed at GPC 14/6/06)					
Isle of Dogs Community Foundation	2 1 Member 1 Officer		Cllr Alan Amos Cllr Brian Son (appointed at GPC at GPC 16/6/05)			Cllr Tim Archer Cllr Phil Briscoe		
Jagonari	1		Cllr Denise Jones (appointed at GPC 16/6/05)	Cllr Shiria Katun	Cllr Rania Khan			
Samuda Estate Management Board (EMB)			Cllr Julian Sharpe (appointed at GPC 16/6/05)					

ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF REPS. TO BE APPOINTED	ON-GOING APPOINTMENTS	CURRENT APPOINTMENTS	LABOUR GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	RESPECT GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	CONSERVATIVE GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	APPOINTED AT GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 15 th November, 2006
<p>East London Homes</p> <p>1. ELH are seeking to reduce the number of directors appointed by LBTH to 2.</p> <p>2. ELH are seeking confirmation that the Council is agreeable to ELH 's changing its articles to reflect the reduction in directors appointed by LBTH.</p>		<p>Cllr Denise Jones Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman</p>						

ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF REPS. TO BE APPOINTED	ON-GOING APPOINTMENTS	CURRENT APPOINTMENTS	LABOUR GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	RESPECT GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	CONSERVATIVE GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	APPOINTED AT GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 15th November, 2006
<p>Tower Hamlets Sport Council (THSC)</p> <p>THSC has written to the Council seeking a reduction in LBTH's current 10 representatives to 7, its suggested that this is undertaken on a proportionate basis.</p>			<p>Cllr Clair Hawkins Cllr Luftur Rahman Cllr Marc Francis Cllr Alibor Choudhury Cllr Shiria Khatun Cllr Shahed Ali Cllr Oliur Rahman Cllr Rania Khan Cllr Simon Rouse Cllr Stephanie Eaton (appointed at GPC 14/6/06)</p>					
<p>London Authorities Mutual Limited</p> <p>Cabinet on 8/10/2006 agreed to participate in the insurance company. It is propose to appoint the Director of Finance or his nominee as the Authority's representative</p>	1							

ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF REPS. TO BE APPOINTED	ON-GOING APPOINTMENTS	CURRENT APPOINTMENTS	LABOUR GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	RESPECT GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	CONSERVATIVE GROUP NOMINATIONS COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP NOMINATION S COUNCILLOR 2006/2007	APPOINTED AT GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 15th November, 2006
<p>London Thames Gateway Development Corporation</p> <p>The appointment is subject to approval by the Secretary of State. 2 nominations are sought, the Secretary of State making the final choice.</p>			Mr Michael Keith (appointed 2004)					

ORGANISATION ALG	NUMBER OF REPS. TO BE APPOINTED	CURRENT APPOINTMENTS	APPOINTED AT COUNCIL ON 24 TH MAY, 2006
Culture & Tourism Forum	1+1dep	Cllr Denise Jones Cllr Helal Rahman (Deputy) (Appointed at GPC 16 th June, 2005)	Cllr Lutfur Rahman Cllr Alibor Choudhury (Deputy)
2012 Forum	1+dep		Cllr Ohid Ahmed Cllr Lutfur Rahman (Deputy)

The London Councils organisation has advised the Authority that the Culture & Tourism Forum and 2012 Forum have now been merged and therefore only one nomination together with a deputy is being sought. Councillor Lutfur Rahman was appointed to the Culture & Tourism Forum and Councillor Ohid Ahmed to the 2012 Forum.

Agenda Item 4.2

COMMITTEE: General Purposes Committee	DATE: 2006	CLASSIFICATION Unrestricted	REPORT NO.	AGENDA ITEM No:
Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) Originating Officer: Isabella Freeman		TITLE: ELECTIONS UPDATE Ward(s) affected. All		

1. SUMMARY

This is an update report on polling station reviews and other legislation relating to elections.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 SECTION 97

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background papers"

Tick if copy
supplied for
register

If not supplied, name and telephone
number of holder

None

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Electoral Administration Act was passed in July 2006 and whilst some provisions have been brought into effect the majority of the changes are still awaiting implementing regulations which are being considered in Parliament this autumn with effective dates in the spring of 2007. Unfortunately there appears to be many different Regulations and this area of legislation is badly in need of some new consolidating regulations

3.2 A summary of the main changes is set out in Appendix A. In relation to postal votes there will be a requirement for personal identifiers (date of birth and signature) to be provided on the application. This can then be verified. We will write to all postal vote applicants in the New Year when this provision comes into force. Existing postal voters will remain on the register. There are also new offences that cover postal vote fraud.

3.3 **Review of Polling Districts and Places**

Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 sets out the new arrangements for the review of polling districts and places. These provisions are scheduled to come into effect on 1 January 2007. The regulations are currently before Parliament and if approved will take effect from 1 January 2007.

Under Section 16 every authority must carry out a review of all the polling districts and polling places in its area before the end of 12 months starting with the date when Section 16 comes into force.

It is therefore proposed to start a review in April 2007 when the new elections staffing structure is in place.

The authority must then carry out further reviews every 4 years.

Section 16 inserts a new schedule (Schedule 1A) into the Representation of the People Act 1983 that sets out the procedure for carrying out a review –

- 1) The authority must publish notice of the holding of a review.
- 2) It must consult the Returning Officer for every parliamentary constituency which is wholly or partly in its area.
- 3) The returning officer must make representations to the authority as to the location of polling stations within polling places and these representations must be published in the manner prescribed.

- 4) The authority must seek representations from persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. They must have the opportunity to make representations and to comment on the Returning Officer's representations.
- 5) Any elector in the area may make representations.
- 6) Any representations made by any person in connection with the review may include proposals for alternative polling places.
- 7) On completion the authority must give reasons for its decisions and publish the prescribed information.

The regulations that come into force on 1 January 2007 prescribe –

- 1) the manner of publication of representations made by the Returning Officer – the authority must publish such representations within 30 days of receipt in at least one conspicuous place in their area and on their website.
- 2) the regulations also prescribe the information to be published on completion of the review – all correspondence and representations; the minutes of any meetings held to consider the designation of polling districts/polling places as a result of the review. Details of the places where the results of the review have been published.

Section 16 also reinforces the duty of local authorities to ensure access to the electoral process for people with disabilities so we will need to consult with disabled groups and ensure we follow Electoral Commission Guidance at that time. There is also a provision where anyone with sufficient interest can appeal to the independent Electoral Commission about the designation of a particular polling place.

Ward Boundary Reviews

The Boundary Commission is responsible for this. A full programme of ward boundary reviews was completed two years ago (periodic review). New wards for Tower Hamlets came into effect for the 2002 Elections. There is no plan to carry out a further periodic review.

In March each year the Commission do review data on the new registers published on 1st December each year. They check for democratic inequality, that is the numbers of constituents each councillor represents. The initial review included 5-year forecasts on electorate.

4. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

4.1 The legal implications are set out in the report

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

5.1 A growth bid has been submitted in the budget round to cover the additional costs of postage, printing and general budget as the new regulations require that the elections manager sends out more notices and takes various steps to verify electors wishes.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7. ANTI –POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 None

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

APPENDIX A

NOTE FOR COUNCILLORS ON ELECTION LEGISLATION CHANGES

The New Electoral Administration Act 2006 was passed in July – some of the provisions have been brought into effect in the September Commencement Order. The Regulations that are needed to back up the legislation have not yet been passed through Parliament but are due to go this autumn. The main provisions will not be effective until next year

The provisions cover the canvass, registration, voting by post/proximity.

The Canvass

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is required to send the canvass form more than once to the address and make more than one house to house enquiry. We are currently in the canvass period and are already implementing this by sending the form by post twice and a final reminder form is left by the canvasser if no contact can be made.

Registration

There are new formal procedures around anonymous registration (this applies to police and those who can establish their safety at risk subject to providing prescribed evidence) evidence must now be provided in writing to the ERO. Military service registration now remains on the role for 3 years

Postal Voters and Proxy Voters

The new regulations coming into effect next year will require that those who vote by post/proxy must provide signature and date of birth (personal identifiers) when applying. The ERO may then check these against other records. We are not

sure what other records yet, discussions are ongoing with government as the Council does not hold any databases with signatures and date of birth. Existing postal voters will also have to comply to remain as postal voters. Fresh signatures will be required every 5 years.

A postal voting statement will replace the declaration of identity. The ERO will be obliged to check at least 20% of the postal vote statements against original applications. Currently suppliers are testing scanning equipment and software to provide accurate matches.

The ERO will now have the power to carry out more checks if appropriate.

New offences for postal vote fraud have been established to cover:-

- Revised undue influence to be effective even when no steps taken
- Applying for dead/fictitious person
- Misdirecting postal votes
- Seeking to deprive another of the vote
- False registrations

There will be a marked register for postal votes similar to that used at polling stations.

Voting at Polling Stations

Ballot books will be scrapped. Instead of the counterfoil there will be a corresponding number list recording the elector's number and the elector will sign for a ballot paper. Stamping instruments to be replaced by security mark.

Participation in Vote

The ERO can formally encourage participation in voting – new toolkit, new performance standards for elections

Age of Councillors

The age requirement for standing in elections is reduced from 18 to 21.

Isabella Freeman

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)

6th November 2006

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TABLED ITEM

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER, 2006

AGENDA ITEM 5

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCIES AND COMMITTEES/PANELS

The following nominations have been received:-

(i) **Standards Committee**

Councillor Simon Rouse to be appointed deputy to Councillor Peter Golds.

(ii) **Development Committee**

Councillor Stephanie Eaton to be appointed as second deputy to Councillor Tim O'Flaherty.

(iii) **Licensing Committee**

Councillor Stephanie Eaton to be appointed as deputy to Councillors Rajib Ahmed and Azizur Rahman Khan.

(iv) **Pensions and Accounts Committee**

Councillor Stephanie Eaton to be appointed as second deputy to Councillor Louise Alexander.

(v) **Appeals Committee**

Councillor Stephanie Eaton to be appointed as second deputy to Councillor Abdul Matin.

(vi) **Health Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Stephanie Eaton to be appointed as second deputy to Councillor Tim O'Flaherty.

(vii) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor M. Shahid Ali, Councillor Alex Heslop and Councillor Ahmed Omer to be appointed first, second and third deputies respectively to the Labour Group Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(viii) Strategic Development Committee

Following the resignation of Councillor Rupert Bawden from membership of the Committee, the Labour Group have nominated Councillor Joshua Peck, with Councillors Anwara Ali and Sirajul Islam as first and second deputies respectively.

**Ian Wilson
Interim Chief Executive
15th November, 2006**