

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD AT 8.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2007

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

Members Present:

Councillor Marc Francis (Chair)

Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Clair Hawkins
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Other Councillors Present:

Officers Present:

Isabella Freeman – (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])
Angus Dixon – (Democratic Services)
Tim Revell – (Interim Service Head Democratic Renewal and
Engagement)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Shahid Ali.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Section 1 Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 15th November, 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them accordingly.

Subject to:

The addition of Councillors Motin Uz-Zaman and Stephanie Eaton to the list of 'Members Present'.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Appointments to External Bodies and Committees of the Council

The Committee discussed each of the external appointments in the order in which they appeared in Appendix A to the report. For each appointment Mr Dixon, Committee Clerk, gave a summary of the positions that were being nominated for.

a) East London Nursing Society

After discussion the Chair **Moved** and it was

RESOLVED

That Ms Anna Lynch be appointed as the London Borough of Tower Hamlets representative to the East London Nursing Society.

b) City Airport Consultative Committee

The Committee was informed that Mr Eric Pemberton, a resident of Tower Hamlets, was the person referenced in the letter of invitation from the City Airport Consultative Committee, and that Mr Pemberton through a lot of campaigning had played an active role in securing Tower Hamlets an invitation to join the Consultative Committee.

The Committee discussed that due to Mr Pemberton's commitment and interest in the field, as well as his apolitical status, that he could be a refreshing and appropriate alternative choice for appointment as the Tower Hamlets representative.

It was also discussed however that an adequate reporting arrangement would need to be agreed to ensure that the Council was appropriately informed of the work being undertaken by the Consultative Committee. Additionally it was not clear in the letter of invitation as to whether the Tower Hamlets representative was required to be an Elected Member and therefore if Mr Pemberton would be an acceptable nomination.

The Chair **Moved** and it was

RESOLVED

That the appointment to the City Airport Consultative Committee be delayed until the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee to allow:

- Clarification of the eligibility of Mr Pemberton to represent Tower Hamlets.
- Research into reporting options for Mr Pemberton to provide feedback to Council.

c) English Heritage

The Committee questioned whether there was any conflict with the proposed appointment of Councillor Denise Jones due to her position of Leader of the Council. It was discussed that Councillor Jones was already heavily involved in similar heritage work and therefore was a sensible nomination.

The Chair **Moved** and it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Denise Jones be appointed as the London Borough of Tower Hamlets representative to English Heritage.

4.2 Election Polling Places Review

The report was introduced by Ms Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services). Ms Freeman informed the Committee that she was seeking any guidance in regards to the review of polling places, and that the overall purpose was to have appropriate boundaries and polling places established in time for the 2008 elections.

The Committee raised a number of issues regarding location of polling stations/places and discussed how and in what form the Members would be encouraged to provide feedback on any issues. It was agreed that it would be beneficial if Members received a letter on this issue in addition to a segment in the Members Bulletin.

The Chair **Moved** and it was

RESOLVED

That the process for polling station reviews be agreed as set out below:

PROCESS FOR POLLING PLACES REVIEW

1. Publish item in Members Bulletin in February for members to advise the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) of any issues relating to polling stations/places by the end of the first week of March 2007.

2. Officers to review issues and alternatives by the end of the first week of April 2007.
 3. Interim report to General Purposes Committee in late April 2007.
 4. Public Notice – April 2007 – consultation with all responses returned by late July 2007.
 5. Final report to General Purposes Committee - target date October 2007.
 6. Report to Council – target date November 2007.
5. **ANY OTHER SECTION ONE BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee discussed possible dates for their next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee be held on Wednesday 25th April, 2007, commencing at 7:30pm.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Marc Francis
General Purposes Committee