

Meeting of the

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19 March 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

MP702, 7th Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent,
London, E14 2BG

Members:

Chair: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Vice-Chair:

Councillor Aminur Khan

Councillor Rajib Ahmed

Councillor Marc Francis

Councillor John Pierce

Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Councillor Craig Aston

Deputies (if any):

Councillor Peter Golds, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Craig Aston)

Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Shiria Khatun, John Pierce, David Edgar and Ahmed Adam Omer)

Councillor David Snowden, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Craig Aston)

Councillor Bill Turner, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Shiria Khatun, Rajib Ahmed, Marc Francis and John Pierce)

Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Shiria Khatun, Rajib Ahmed, Marc Francis and John Pierce)

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

Public Information

Attendance at meetings.

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Committee. However seating is limited and offered on a first come first served basis.

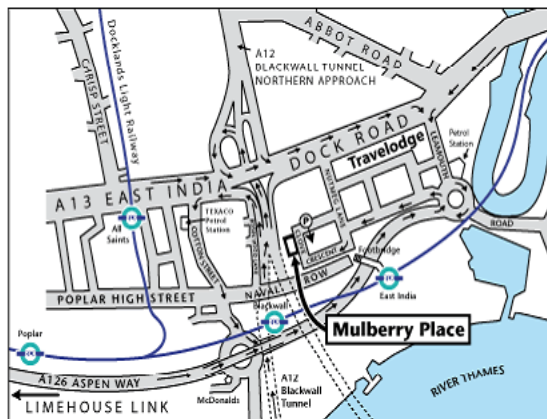
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QR code for smart phone users.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19 March 2014

7.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1 - 4

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.

See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

PAGE NUMBERS	WARD(S) AFFECTED
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3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

5 - 8

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 18 December 2013.

4. 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.

5. RESTRICTED MINUTES

9 - 10

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the restricted minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 18 December 2013.

**6. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR
APPOINTMENTS**

11 - 142

Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Meic Sullivan-Gould, Monitoring Officer, 020 7364 4801; or

John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services, 020 7364 4204

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	<p>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.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>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—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
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	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(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.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2013

**MP702, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Shiria Khatun (Chair)
Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Craig Aston
Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Shahed Ali

Officers Present:

Hania Franek	– (Head of School Governance & Information, Education Social Care & Wellbeing)
Louise Stamp	– (Electoral Services Manager, Chief Executive's)
John Williams	– (Service Head, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Evelyn Akoto	– (Committee Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology from Councillor Pierce for whom Councillor Mukit was deputising.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 25 September 2013 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Polling District and Polling Place Review Final Proposals -

At the request of the Chair, John Williams (Service Head Democratic Services) presented the report. He stated that the report outlined the final recommendations for the polling arrangements. A revised paper on polling districts and polling places was circulated at the meeting (Appendix C); he highlighted that the former Holy Trinity Church should have been listed as the proposed polling place for Bow West (BW3) and also that Whitechapel had four proposed polling districts and not 5 as listed in the circulated agenda.

A discussion followed which focused on the following points:

- Concern was raised with the proposal of changing the current polling place of St Matthias Primary School in polling district WE3 (Weavers) to William Davis Primary School. Members stated that St Matthias was well situated in the Ward, with many pensioners, and the balance of people living nearer to St Matthias.
- Officers commented that not all proposed polling stations had yet been visited to check Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance, and that if stations were found not to be suitable, Members would be duly informed via the Chair of the Committee. It was hoped that this process would be completed by the end of January 2014.
- The Committee agreed to delegate authority to officers to approve potential changes to the proposed polling arrangements as necessary, following consultation with the Chair and relevant ward councillors.

Councillor Mukit **PROPOSED** and it was **AGREED** that the Weavers WE3 polling station should be St Matthias CE Primary School.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee note the information in the report and agree the proposed new arrangements for polling district and polling places, as set out in the tabled Appendix C, with the following exception;
 - a) That the WE3 polling station be changed from William Davis Primary School to St Mathias CE Primary School.
2. That the Committee delegate authority to the Service Head Democratic Service to approve any necessary changes to polling arrangements after consultation with the Chair and relevant ward councillors.

4.2 Local Election Protocol

This report was tabled at the meeting.

John Williams (Service Head, Democratic Services) presented the report to the Committee for noting. He stated that the report was to update the Committee on the ongoing work with the Metropolitan Police, Electoral Commission and other partners to ensure transparency of the elections

processes in Tower Hamlets. He highlighted key areas such as the local code of conduct, which was to supplement the codes issued by the Electoral Commission, enhanced to address issues of local concern.

A discussion followed which focused on the following points:

- The Committee discussed the varied ways that postal votes could be delivered, and felt that the option of recorded delivery should be the preferred choice, as it required a signature from the recipient.
- It was noted that although it would not be compulsory for members to sign the local protocol, all parties and candidates would be asked to sign up to the code. Some Members felt that this information should be made available on the Council's website.
- The Committee discussed plans to maintain public order on voting day, such as requesting Candidates not to allocate more than two campaigners to gather outside polling places at any one time. Access to polling places and pavements around polling places would be kept clear to allow easy access for voters. Public order offences committed during Election Day would be dealt with by the Police, but this will be limited to public areas and not within polling stations.

A Member commented that elections in Tower Hamlets were sensitive, and felt that there should be tight procedures to regulate behaviour during the whole election period.

RESOLVED

That the report and the draft Local Electoral Protocol be noted.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved that in accordance with 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 on the grounds that the remaining agenda item contained information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

6. RESTRICTED MINUTES

Please refer to section two minutes.

7. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Please refer to section two minutes.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Chair, Councillor Shiria Khatun
General Purposes Committee

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Agenda Item 5

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Agenda Item 6

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