

# MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

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Friday, 4 August 2017

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Mayor's Decision Log No. 167


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1. **167 - APPOINTMENT TO NORTON FOLGATE CHARITY (Pages 1 - 6)**

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: Matthew Mannion, Committee Manager, Democratic Services

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<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b>  Decision Log No: 167	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Matthew Mannion, Committees Manager, Democratic Services	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Nomination to the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity for 2017/18 – 2020/21</b>	

<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Decision Notice Publication Date:</b>	N/A
<b>General Exception or Urgency Notice published?</b>	<b>Not required</b>
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is the responsibility of the Mayor to appoint representatives to certain external bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council. This report sets out the appointment to the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity, which is for four years, until 2020/21.

Full details of the decision sought, including setting out the reasons for the recommendations and/or all the options put forward; other options considered; background information; the comments of the Chief Finance Officer; the concurrent report of the Head of Legal Services; implications for One Tower Hamlets; Risk Assessment; Background documents; and other relevant matters are set out in the attached report.

## DECISION

The Mayor is recommended:

1. To agree to the nomination of Mr Dean Jones to serve on the Board of the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity as set out in the attached report to serve until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

**APPROVALS**

**1. (if applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy**

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor

Signed  ..... Date 1/8/2017

**2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  ..... Date 1/8/2017

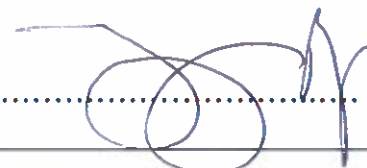
**3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy**


I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  ..... Date 1/8/17

**4. Mayor**

I agree the decision proposed in paragraph above for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.3. and 3.4 in the attached report.

Signed  ..... Date 4/8/17

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<b>Report of:</b> Matthew Mannion, Committees Manager, Democratic Services	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Nomination to the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity for 2017/18 – 2020/21</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Mayor John Biggs</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Joel West, Senior Committee Services Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	All
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No

### Executive Summary

The Mayor has responsibility for appointing representatives to certain external bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council. This report sets out an appointment to the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity. This appointment is for four years.

### Recommendations:

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Agree to the nomination of Mr Dean Jones (lay person) to serve on the Board of the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity as set out in the attached report to serve until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

**1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 Appointing representatives to outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the Borough.

**2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Mayor could decide not to make appointments to outside bodies at all. However, this is not recommended as it would reduce the Council's opportunity to be involved in and to support good work within the community and it would also reduce the Council's leadership opportunities. There are also a number of bodies where the Council is required, or expected to provide a representative.

**3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 3.1 Participating in the work of external bodies is an important 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 guidance will be sent to all those appointed to external bodies.
- 3.2 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, but there is provision where necessary for Members appointed by the Council to report back to a meeting of the Council.
- 3.3 There is provision for up to three persons (either Councillors, officers or lay persons) to serve on the Board of the Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity. Appointments are made for four years.
- 3.4 At the current time, one Councillor has been nominated as a Norton Folgate Almshouses Charity Board member. This is Councillor John Pierce. Approval of this nomination was agreed in 2015/16. The nomination for the second vacancy is the person named in Recommendation 1 of this report, Mr Dean Jones, who is a lay person.

**4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1. The appointment of Councillors and others to outside bodies is an Executive decision when the appointment relates to executive functions.
- 5.2. The Norton Folgate Almshouses consist of 11 flats, clustered around a gated courtyard garden and nearby Victorian cottages. There are further flats in Commercial Street opposite Old Spitalfields Market. The Almshouses have their own housing regulations and the scheme is for the benefit of people in need within the Tower Hamlets area. As the charity is for housing purposes and as housing is an executive function then the appointment decision is an executive one and is for the Mayor.

## **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Appointing representatives to outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the Borough.

## **7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. Where appropriate it is important that any training/support needs of new appointees are identified by the bodies concerned and that appropriate training and support is delivered.
- 8.2. The appointment of representatives to external bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with the community. The appointment of representatives also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community.

## **9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

- 10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- None.

#### **Appendices**

- None

**Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- None.

**Officer contact details for documents:**

- N/A