


Individual Mayoral Decision	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: David Courcoux, Head of the Mayor's Office	Classification: Unrestricted
Appointments to External Bodies 2017/18	

Lead Member	Mayor John Biggs
Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager
Wards affected	All wards
Community Plan Theme	All
Key Decision?	No

Executive Summary

As set out in the report to the General Purposes Committee on 3 July 2012, it is the responsibility of the Mayor to appoint representatives to certain External Bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council.

The appendix attached to the report lists a set of proposed appointments to External Bodies for the Mayor to consider. Although appointments are usually reviewed each year, they are valid until such time as they are amended or renewed.

Recommendations:

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Agree the appointments to External Bodies as shown in Appendix 1.

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.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

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

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1. Pursuant to section 9D(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, any function of the Council which is not specified in regulations is to be the responsibility of the Council's executive under executive arrangements. The relevant regulations which specify non-executive functions are the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 ("the Functions Regulations").
- 5.2. The Functions Regulations specify a category of functions which may be (but need not be) the responsibility of a local authority's executive. These are sometimes referred to as local choice functions. Included in the category of local choice functions is the appointment of any individual to anybody, other than the Council or a joint committee, and the revocation of any such appointment. The Council's Constitution (part 3.2.2) specifies that responsibility for such appointments lies with the Mayor if the appointment is made in relation to or in support of an executive function.
- 5.3. All bar two of the appointments in Appendix 1 relate to local choice functions and are the responsibility of the executive. The Mayor therefore has responsibility for these appointments under the Constitution. The remaining two are appointments made by the Mayor of London appointments but are in respect of Executive functions and it is for the Mayor to nominate.

- 5.4. When considering appointments or the approach to be taken to appointments, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (the public sector equality duty). It is important to be satisfied that any process followed is supportive of equal opportunity.

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. BEST VALUE (BV IMPLICATIONS)

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

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

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

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

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

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – List of Appointments to External Bodies

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

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A