

Committee <b>General Purposes Committee</b>	Date <b>17<sup>th</sup> June, 2009</b>	Classification <b>Unrestricted</b>	Report No.	Agenda Item No. <b>5.2</b>
Report of: <b>Service Head, Democratic Services</b>		Title: <b>APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES</b>		
Originating Officer(s): <b>John S. Williams</b>		Ward(s) affected: <b>All</b>		

### **SUMMARY**

1. The Committee is requested to consider nominations from the political groups and agree the Council's appointments to external bodies for the municipal year 2009/10.
2. Attached at Appendix A is the schedule of appointments to be made. This has been revised to show, for each organisation, the nominees who have served during 2008/2009; the number of appointments required in 2009/2010; and any nominations received prior to printing of this report. Any further nominations received subsequently from the political groups will be tabled at the meeting.
3. It should be noted that appointments to London Councils Committees and Forums were made by Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 because London Councils required nominations by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. (i) That appointments be made to external bodies for the Municipal Year 2009/2010 as listed in Appendix A to the report;
- (ii) That the appointments to London Councils Committees and Forums made by Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009, as listed in Appendix A to the report, be noted; and
- (iii) That the 'Guidance for Members representing the Council on external bodies' at Appendix B be noted.

## **BACKGROUND**

5. The General Purposes Committee has been established by Council to enable the swift determination of non-executive matters, including appointments to external bodies. A report elsewhere on the agenda provides details of the Committee's terms of reference, membership and quorum.
6. The Committee is requested to consider the nominations for appointment to External Bodies, which have been received from the political groups on the Council.
7. The schedule of appointments (attached at Appendix A) to external bodies has been revised to show the appointments made in 2008/2009, those required in 2009/2010 and any nominations received. Appointments are made for one municipal year unless otherwise indicated.

## **ROLE OF MEMBERS**

8. 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 the guidance in Appendix B has been formulated to assist members. The Committee is invited to note the guidance which has been circulated to all members of the Council and posted on the members' intranet.
9. 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 external bodies to report to the Council or General Purposes Committee on the work of the organisation and any implications for the Council.

## **CONSULTATION**

10. The political groups on the Council have been consulted prior to finalising the schedule at Appendix A and have been invited to submit nominations for the positions listed.

## **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)**

12. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The legal issues and duties relating to Council nominees on external bodies are addressed in the Guidance to Representatives attached at Appendix B.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR ONE TOWER HAMLETS**

13. There are no immediate implications for One Tower Hamlets arising from this report.

## **SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)**

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

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

15. 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.

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## **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

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