


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Freedom of the Borough Panel</b>  7 March 2018	
<b>Report of:</b> Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Appointment of Co-Optees to the Freedom of the Borough Panel</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager Rushena Miah, Committee Services Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

### Executive Summary

The Freedom of the Borough Panel has been established by the Council to oversee the process of reviewing and forwarding to Council nominations for the Freedom of the Borough.

The Terms of Reference set out the Membership of the Panel but also allow the Panel to consider co-opting additional non-voting Members from outside the Council onto the Panel. At the November 2017 meeting of the Panel it was agreed that representatives from the education sector, voluntary sector and business sector should be sought and presented for co-option.

### Recommendations:

The Freedom of the Borough Ad Hoc Panel is recommended to:

1. Appoint Preeti Udas, Chair of the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS), as a Co-opted Member of the Freedom of the Borough Panel.

### 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Freedom of the Borough Panel Terms of Reference allow for the Co-option for additional Non-Voting Members. At the November meeting of the Panel, discussions took place seeking representation from the voluntary, education and business sectors to be co-opted onto the Panel. This was in order to provide a diversity of views in shortlisting the nominations.
- 1.2 Officers proceeded to approach relevant organisations and individuals and this report allows for a discussion by the Panel on whether they wish to proceed with co-opting additional Members onto the Panel.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Panel could decide to not co-opt additional Members onto the Panel.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 3.1 The Membership of the Panel as agreed by Council comprises of 'Members of the Council to include the Chair of Council, the Mayor, any former Civic Mayors or Chair of Council [Speaker] still serving as Councillors, and at least one representative of each political group on the Council'.
- 3.2 The Panel may also co-opt additional non-voting Members including other former civic Mayors or Chairs of Council no longer sitting as Councillors, or independent persons drawn from the business, community or public sectors.
- 3.3 In accordance with the above the Panel may consider co-opting additional Non-Voting Members to assist in its deliberations.
- 3.4 Co-opting additional Members onto the Panel can be a good way of broadening the reach and knowledge of the Panel and making sure relevant groups and communities are represented. Examples of the reasons why co-opting Members may be valuable include:
- Ensuring a better gender or ethnic balance
  - Including representatives from the business sector
  - Co-opting past Speakers or Civic Mayors who are no longer Councillors
  - Including representatives from the voluntary and community sectors
- 3.5 The Panel are therefore asked to consider representatives present at the 7 March 2018 meeting for co-option.
- 3.6 Following the 1 November 2017 meeting of the Panel, officers approached a number of potential nominees for co-option. One of those approached expressed an interest in joining the Panel and their details are set out below. To date officers have been unsuccessful in obtaining co-optee nominations from either the education or business sectors. Further approaches to those sectors are continuing.
- 3.7 Preeti Udas, Chair of Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS), was approached to represent the voluntary sector. THCVS was approached because it is the infrastructure body that represents voluntary sector organisations in the borough. THCVS has collaborated with the Council on a number of initiatives; it is a member of the Tower Hamlets Together Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and works closely with the Policy Strategy and Performance Team on strategies such as the Third Sector Plan. THCVS was considered to be the best organisation to represent the voluntary sector. Preeti Udas has indicated that she would be happy to be co-opted onto the Panel and she is therefore recommended for consideration.

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

- 4.1. Co-opted Members of the Panel would be entitled to the standard allowances for Co-opted Members as set out in the Members' Allowance Scheme in the Council's Constitution. These allowances would be funded out of the existing Members Allowances budget.

#### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1. The Council's ability to co-opt members derives from the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 establishes that members of committees appointed under the 1970 and 1972 Acts and who are not elected Councillors do not generally have voting rights. There are exceptions to this rule but which do not apply in this case.
- 5.2. The Terms of Reference to the Panel (see Part 3.3.9 of the Constitution) provides that the Panel may co-opt additional non-voting Members including other former Civic Mayors or Chairs/Speakers of Council, or independent persons drawn from the business, community or public sectors. The Panel therefore has the authority to adopt further non-voting Members.

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

- 6.1. None specific to this report.

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

- 7.1. None specific to this report.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None specific to this report.

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

- 9.1. None specific to this report.

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

- 10.1. None specific to this report.

---

### **Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Appendices**

- None

#### **Background Documents**

- None