


Cabinet	 TOWER HAMLETS
21 June 2023	
Report of: Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Nominations to Outside Bodies – London Councils	

Lead Member	Mayor Lutfur Rahman
Originating Officer(s)	Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committees)
Wards affected	All Wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	N/A
Reason for Key Decision	N/A

Reasons justifying urgent consideration

This report was not published within the statutory timescales as the Mayor's choice to amend nominations was communicated very recently. If the decision were delayed it would impact the Council's representation on key pan-London bodies, some of which are expected to meet in the next few weeks.

Executive Summary

It is the responsibility of the Mayor to nominate representatives to certain Outside Bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council.

This report proposes two changes to nominees to outside bodies for the Mayor to consider. Although all appointments are reviewed regularly, they are, unless stated elsewhere in this report, valid until such time as they are amended or renewed by a Mayoral decision.

Recommendations:

The Mayor is recommended to agree the following nominations to outside bodies:

1. To replace Councillor Abu Chowdhury with Councillor Abdul Wahid as the Council's nominee to London Councils' Greater London Employment Forum (GLEF)
2. To replace Councillor Kabir Ahmed with Councillor Kabir Hussain as the Council's nominee to London Councils' Transport and Environment committee.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Having representatives on 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.
- 1.2 London-wide initiatives can also offer considerable benefits that promote delivery of the Council's key priorities. Conditions of some London-wide partnerships and trusts are that the Council is represented on their boards.

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 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Participating in the work of outside bodies is an important part of the role of elected Members and officers, 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 and officers 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 nominated to outside bodies.
- 3.2 A key part of this role is ensuring that information about the activities of outside 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.
- 3.3 The nominations to be made to Outside Bodies are:

London Councils

- 3.4 London Councils describes itself as: the collective voice for London local government. It seeks to be an influential advocate for the interests of boroughs, promoting both councils' leadership of their places and of a broad range of public services on behalf of their localities. London Councils fights for the resources, powers and freedoms that boroughs need to play that role.

The Greater London Employment Forum (GLEF)

- 3.5 GLEF a joint forum comprising representatives of the London authorities within the scope of the London Agreement and the Corporation of London. The purpose of the GLEF is to provide a forum where London employer and employee representatives can meet to discuss and debate employment matters of concern to the London authorities and their workforces and, where appropriate, recommend areas/opportunities for regional agreement and working.
- 3.6 It is proposed to replace the current nominee, Councillor Abu Chowdhury, with Councillor Abdul Wahid, to reflect the changes in Cabinet lead member positions the Mayor announced at the AGM.

Transport and Environment committee

- 3.7 The Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) provides a range of high quality operational services such as parking and traffic appeals, the London night-time and weekend lorry ban, the Freedom Pass and Taxicard schemes. TEC aims to ensure that London boroughs' concerns and best practice are taken fully into account in the development and implementation of the whole range of transport and environment policies generated by Government departments, the European Union and the Mayor of London. The Committee deals with a wide array of issues.
- 3.8 It is proposed to replace the current nominee, Councillor Kabir Ahmed, with Councillor Kabir Hussain. The former was nominated in error.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nominating 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

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

Risk Management Implications

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The nomination of representatives to outside bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with the community. The nomination of representatives also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report requests the Mayor in Cabinet to agree nominations to outside bodies as in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.8 and as such there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The appointments in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.8 are the responsibility of the executive. The Constitution gives responsibility for these appointments to the Executive with delegation to the Mayor. These appointments are among the functions set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as functions which may (but need not be) be the responsibility of the Executive.
- 7.2 Annual appointments should normally be made at the Annual General Meeting, but in-year appointments can be made by the Mayor.
- 7.3 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.

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:

Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committees) 020 7364 4207