

Committee <b>General Purposes Committee</b>	Date <b>22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011</b>	Classification <b>Unrestricted</b>	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
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 Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 agreed that responsibility for making appointments to external bodies shall be a Council function and not a Mayoral/Executive function, with the exception of those appointments that, by law or at the request of the body and with the agreement of Council, are for executive members, which shall be appointed by the Mayor.
2. The terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee include delegated responsibility to make such appointments on behalf of the Council. The Committee is requested to consider nominations from the political groups and agree the Council's appointments to external bodies for the municipal year 2011/12.
3. Appendix A to this report (to follow) sets out the schedule of appointments to be made. This will show, for each organisation, the nominees who have served during 2010/11; the number of appointments required in 2011/12; additional information on the organisation/frequency of meetings etc; and any nominations received prior to printing of the schedule. Any further nominations received subsequently from the political groups will be tabled at the meeting.
4. The Committee will note that appointments to London Councils Committees and Forums were made by the Mayor prior to the Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. (i) That appointments be made to external bodies for the Municipal Year 2011/12 as listed in Appendix A to the report (to follow);
- (ii) That the appointments made by the Mayor to London Councils Committees and Forums for 2011/12 as listed in Appendix A be noted; and
- (iii) That the 'Guidance for Members representing the Council on external bodies' at Appendix B be noted.

## **BACKGROUND**

6. 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.
7. The Committee is requested to consider the nominations for appointment to external bodies, which have been received from the political groups on the Council, and to make the appointments to those bodies.
8. The schedule of appointments to external bodies (Appendix A, to follow) shows the appointments to be made in 2011/2012 and any nominations received prior to printing of the Appendix. Further information on the activities of each organisation, duties of appointees and frequency of meetings is included where available. Appointments are made for one municipal year unless otherwise indicated.

## **ROLE OF MEMBERS**

9. 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 will be sent to all members appointed to external bodies and posted on the intranet.
10. 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**

11. 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**

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

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

13. 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**

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

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

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

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

16. 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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