


<b>Cabinet</b>	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
Wednesday, 29 November 2023	
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)
<b>Nominations to Outside Bodies</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Mayor Lutfur Rahman</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	<b>Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committees)</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All Wards</b>
<b>Key Decision?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	Accelerating education

### **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 one change 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 Abdul Wahid with Councillor Amin Rahman as the Council's nominee to Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust.
2. To replace Juned Khan, with Shenaly Miah as the Council's nominee to Stepney Relief in Need Charity.

### **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:

### **Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust**

- 3.4 The Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust exists to promote the advancement of further, higher and postgraduate education and vocational training among Tower Hamlets residents, with an emphasis on supporting vocational courses that lead to employment..
- 3.5 It is proposed to replace the current nominee, Councillor Abdul Wahid, with Councillor Amin Rahman.

### **Stepney Relief in Need Charity**

- 3.6 Stepney Relief in Need Charity describes its aims as relieving Either Generally or Individually Persons Resident In The Area Of Benefit Who Are In

Conditions of Need, Hardship Or Distress.

- 3.7 It is proposed to replace the current nominee, Juned Khan, with Shenaly Miah. Both are laypersons (i.e. not member or officer) which is permitted under the requirements of the outside body.

### **Guidance to nominees**

- 3.8 Cabinet is asked to note that the Council's Standards Advisory Committee recently reviewed and made suggestions for amending the Council's Guidance for Members and Officers on Outside Organisations. The Guidance is designed for members and officers. It sets out general expectations of nominees and the duties of directors/trustees as set out in law. It also sets out the various types of organisations that members may typically be appointed to. The draft Guidance will be presented to General Purposes Committee in December for approval and if approved, will be circulated to all persons nominated to outside bodies. In the meantime, the draft guidance is available on request from Democratic Services.

## **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 indicated in paragraphs 3.5 – 3.7 and as such there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 The appointments in this report are the responsibility of the executive. The Mayor therefore has responsibility for these appointments under the Constitution and is legally entitled to make these appointments. This is under s.1 Localism Act 2011, the general power of competence.

7.2 Annual appointments should normally be made at the Annual General Meeting, but in-year appointments can be made by the Mayor. Although the power is expressed to be a one-off appointment, this is assumed to include the power to remove if it is felt to be necessary (*paras. 19 and 20 Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000*).

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.

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## **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:**

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