


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 15 May 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council 2024-25	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	Wards

Executive Summary

A report elsewhere on the Annual Council agenda recommends the establishment of Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council as set out in the Constitution; and the allocation of places on those committees and sub-committees in accordance with the proportionality rules.

The attached appendices set out the positions that are open to nomination from the political groups for (a) members of committees and sub-committees and (b) chairs of the Council committees in accordance with the places allocated. Any nominations received before the meeting will be tabled or appointments can be proposed at the meeting.

The report can also be used to present appointments to Non-Executive outside bodies for agreement when required.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Appoint members and substitute members to the committees and sub-committees of the Council and other bodies (including Outside Bodies) for the municipal year 2024/25 as set out at Appendix 1 attached or any further nominations made at the meeting.
2. Appoint the Chairs of Committees for 2024/25 from amongst the nominations listed at Appendix 2 attached or any further nominations made at the meeting.
3. Agree that in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Director of Legal, as Monitoring Officer has delegated authority subsequently to agree the

appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council is required to appoint Councillors as Members to the various Committees listed in line with proportionality rules.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 There are no alternative options.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Following the Council's decision to agree the establishment of committees and sub-committees of the Council as set out separately on the agenda; and the allocation of places on those committees and sub-committees in accordance with the proportionality rules, it is for Council to subsequently agree the appointment of Members to those Committees.
- 3.2 This report presents the proposed appointments for the political groups on the Council. Note that any appointments received after publication of the agenda will be circulated at the meeting for agreement. In most cases, each political group can also allocate up to three substitutes on each Committee where they have a place allocated.
- 3.3 Following the allocation to a political group by the Council, or a committee, of a seat or seats on a committee or sub-committee respectively, regulation 15 of the relevant Regulations provides that the political group has a period of three weeks from the date that notice is given to express its wishes in relation to the appointment to such a seat or seats. If the group fails to express its wishes within the prescribed period, the Council or committee may make such appointment to that seat or seats as they think fit. Further, the group to which a seat has been allocated is entitled to express a wish that the seat be filled by a member of a different political party or an ungrouped Councillor. However, that seat remains, in law, allocated to the first group and that group therefore retains the right to terminate the appointment.

Outside Bodies

- 3.4 The Council can also make appointments to those Outside Bodies that are designated as non-executive functions. Two are listed in the Appendix for agreement.

Best practice guidance and considerations

- 3.5 Political group leaders and whips were reminded of the following considerations prior to determining their nominees in Appendix 1 and 2.

- 3.6 The Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities issued by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in May 2019 states “When selecting individual members to serve on scrutiny committees, an authority should consider a member’s experience, expertise, interests, ability to act impartially, ability to work as part of a group, and capacity to serve. Council is asked to take account of this guidance when making appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its sub-committees.
- 3.7 The Council’s draft Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan states that the Council will “*define current best practice in relation to chairing, membership, and cross party working in and of committees. It will conduct a review of current terms of reference for committees based on best practice including the appointment of women to lead or senior political positions within the council*”. This work is yet to be completed pending consideration by the Constitution Working Group. However, group representatives are mindful of this recommendation.
- 3.8 Committee-specific training will be provided to members appointed to many of the bodies listed in Appendix 1 and 2. Further, the Council requires that members of its two development committees and Licensing Committee must have completed compulsory training. Committee-specific training comprises just one element of the learning and development offer for members.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None specific to this report.

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.
- 5.2 None specific to this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The principles of proportionality for allocation of places on committees are set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These principles require that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority. Further detailed rules for the allocation of seats on committees are set out in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

7.2 In relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in addition to the usual proportionality rules, the statutory guidance for overview and scrutiny committees published in May 2019 require consideration of the members' skills, experience and ability to act impartially.

7.3 The Council's Constitution requires full council to make appointments to committees, save where this power has been delegated.

7.4 The proposals set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance, and with the Council's Constitution.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Agenda Item 8 – Proportionality and Establishment of Committees

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Nominations of Members to Committees (nominations to be tabled)
- Appendix 2 – Nominations to Chairs of Committees (nominations to be tabled)

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A