


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, 21 May 2024</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Linda Walker, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Co-optee attendance 2023-24</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, (Head of Democratic Services)
Wards affected	(All Wards);
Exempt information	<p>This report and/or its appendices include information that has been exempted from publication as the Monitoring Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has deemed that the information meets the definition of a category of exempt information as set out in the Council’s Access to Information Rules; and • has deemed that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. <p>The exempt information is contained in Appendix 1</p> <p>The exempt information falls into this category: Category 1. Information relating to an individual</p>

Reasons for urgency

This report was not available by the publication deadline as it was not possible to confirm annual attendance statistics until after the final meeting of a scrutiny body in 2023/24, which was after the agenda publication deadline. The Constitution requires that the OSC considers attendance of scrutiny co-optees at its first meeting each year, so it is not considered possible to delay this report to the next meeting.

Executive Summary

This report presents attendance statistics for co-opted members of the Committee in the previous municipal year and invites the Committee to determine what, if any, action it wishes to take in regards to those co-opted members whose attendance is below expectation.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the attendance record and mitigating information relating to co-opted members of the Committee and determine the appropriate action to take in response.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

The Council's Constitution states that the committee will receive a report at its first meeting of the new municipal year allowing it to review any mitigating factors and determine whether any action should be taken where a Co-opted Member fails to attend (in person) at least half of the ordinarily scheduled Committee/Sub-Committee meetings in a municipal year.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The options are as set out in paragraph 3.6.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution states that Where a Co-opted Member fails to attend (in person) at least half of the ordinarily scheduled Committee/Sub-Committee meetings in a municipal year, the Committee/Sub-Committee on which they sit will receive a report at its first meeting of the new municipal year allowing it to review any mitigating factors and determine whether any action should be taken (including as a final option, recommendation for removal should that be considered appropriate) by Council or the Committee/Sub-Committee who originally appointed them to.
- 3.2 In the previous municipal year, 2023/24, the following co-opted members of scrutiny bodies failed to attend at least 50% of the scheduled meetings in person. Accordingly, the committee is asked to consider the submissions of the co-optees in person, before determining what, if any, action it wishes to take.
- 3.3 Nafisa Ahmed (Parent Governor Rep on Children and Education Scrutiny Sub Committee has attended no meetings in person; two meetings remotely (40%) and has been absent at three meetings (60%) in the past year.
- 3.4 Assan Ali (Resident rep on Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee has attended one meeting in person (20%); two meetings remotely (40%) and has been absent at two meetings (40%) in the past year.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 provides information that has been provided by the co-optees referred to above to the Committee, to assist it in reaching a decision regarding what action to take.
- 3.6 It is suggested the Committee may wish to consider from amongst the following actions as it feels appropriate for each co-opted member:

- That the person be provided with a written reminder regarding attendance expectation and/or
- That the Committee reviews the attendance record in 6 months time to consider if it has sufficiently improved.
- That the person be removed as a co-opted member of the committee/sub committee and instruct officers to make arrangements to fill the vacancy.
- That no action be taken at the current time.
- Any other action the committee feels is appropriate.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A robust constitution and adherence to its provisions supports the work of all Members and ensures good governance at the authority.

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 Consideration of the attendance record and mitigating action does not give rise to any financial implications.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – information supplied by co-opted members (exempt).

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:

Matthew Mannion, (Head of Democratic Services)