

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 2006

Minutes of a meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON E14 2BG** on **WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 2006** at **6.30 P.M.**

SECTION ONE

PRESENT

Councillor Ashton McGregor (Chair)
Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
Councillor James Sanderson
Councillor Marian Williams

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Suki Binjal	-	Legal Services
Pat Parker	-	Interim Head of Electoral Services
Frank Solarz	-	Head of Governor Services
Tim Hogan	-	Democratic Services
Guy Butterworth	-	Democratic Services

COUNCILLOR ASHTON MCGREGOR - IN THE CHAIR

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the General Purposes Committee meeting. At the request of the Chair all present introduced themselves.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Helal Abbas and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

The Chair **MOVED** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That consideration of the election of a Vice-Chair be deferred.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in agenda item 6.1 The declaration was made on the basis that she was a Governor of a school in the Borough.

5. **MINUTES**

The Chair **MOVED** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Section One Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 30th November, 2005 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them accordingly.

6. **REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 **DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND REVOCATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS TO THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)**

The report was introduced by Mr Hogan, who went on to inform the Committee that due to typographical errors in the original report, a revised report had been forwarded to Members. The Committee noted that the former Licensing and General Purposes Committee had previously delegated authority to the then Director of Education to appoint Local Authority Governors. The Terms of Reference of the Licensing Committee agreed in May 2005 by full Council had omitted this function and the report sought to address this issue. In response to a question from the Chair, Mr Solarz agreed to provide him with details of methods by which School Governors were appointed. Mr Solarz also agreed to investigate the possibility of putting a notice in East End Life advertising the need for Governors of schools within the Borough. Following further questions from Members of the Committee, the Chair **MOVED** and it was:-

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Corporate Director (Children's Services) be delegated authority to appoint and revoke the appointment of Local Authority Governors, except where there is a dispute about an appointment or where there is more than one applicant for a post.
- (2) That the appointment of the Local Authority Governors listed in the schedule attached at Annex A to the report be approved.

6.2 REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES

Ms Parker, Interim Head of Electoral Services, introduced the report and responded to a series of questions put by Members of the Committee. Ms Parker noted that the local Boundaries had been reconfigured in 2002 and that the Borough's population had substantially risen since then. Ms Parker agreed to contact the Electoral Commission to discuss the need for a possible further review of the Ward Boundaries as part of review and re-alignment of the polling district boundaries. The Chair **MOVED** and it was:-

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposals to provide polling facilities at St Katherine's Foundation, Butcher Row as an alternative to the Ogilvie Community Club, Shadwell Ward (SH4), two compartment portacabins with disabled access be provided at Bow East (BE1) and Stepney Library to be used if appropriately cleaned and if necessary portacabins to be provided in the library car park and Council be recommended accordingly.
- (2) That a complete review of the Ward polling district boundaries be undertaken over the course of the next year, prior to the 2008 London Mayoral and Assembly elections, so as to ensure adequate and suitable voting facilities have been identified to deal with the increasing electorate in certain parts of the Borough.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.

Councillor Ashton McGregor
Chair, General Purposes Committee