

Committee General Purposes Committee	Date 14th June, 2006	Classification Unrestricted	Report No. GPC002/067	Agenda Item No. 4.2
Report of: Interim Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement Originating Officer(s): Tim Revell / Tim Hogan		Title APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES Ward(s) affected: All		

SUMMARY

1. The Committee is requested to consider nominations to the external bodies received from the political groups on the Council. Attached at Appendix A, is the schedule of appointments to be made, which has been revised to show the appointments made in 2005/2006, those required in 2006/2007, together with officer and organisation details, where appropriate.
2. It should be noted that appointments to the Association of London Government (ALG) were Council by considered by Council on 24th May, 2006 because the ALG required nominations by 1st June, 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. (i) That appointments be made to the external bodies for the Municipal Year 2006/2007 as listed in Appendix A to the report;
- (ii) That the guidance for members on external bodies at Appendix B be noted;
- (iii) That the Committee consider adopting a reporting framework for members on external bodies.

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
General Purposes Minute Book

Tim Hogan
020 7364 4850

BACKGROUND

4. The General Purposes Committee was established by Council on 13th April, 2005 to enable the swift determination of non-strategic issues, including appointments to external bodies. A report elsewhere on the agenda provides details of the Committee's Terms of Reference, membership and quorum.
5. The Committee is requested to consider the nominations for appointment to External Bodies, which have been received from the political groups on the Council.
6. The schedule of appointments to external bodies has been revised to show the appointments made in 2005/2006, and those required in 2006/2007 together with officer and organisation contact details, where appropriate. Appointments are made for one municipal year unless otherwise indicated. However, in the case of those bodies which fall under auspices of the Charities Commission appointments are for longer period and these have been * on the attached schedule for ease of reference.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

7. Participating in the work of external bodies is a key 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 in carrying out this role. The Committee is invited to note the guidance which will subsequently be circulated to all members of the Council and placed on the members' intranet.
8. 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.
9. However, to ensure that this communication takes place consistently and effectively it is suggested that a framework be established whereby Members appointed by the Council to external bodies report regularly to this Committee on the work of the organisation with particular emphasis on any implications for the Council. This is set out in more details in paragraph 7 of Appendix B. The Committee is invited to consider and endorse this reporting framework.

CONSULTATION

10. The political groups on the Council have been consulted prior to finalising the schedule.

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

12. There are no legal comments arising from this report.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no immediate equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

ANTI POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report.

SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

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. The introduction of more robust reporting arrangements will reduce the risk of misunderstanding between external bodies and the Council.