

APPENDIX 1

Co-option of Education and other Representatives to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Extract from the report considered by OSC on 08 July 2014, at agenda item 6.2, “Appointment of Scrutiny Lead Members, Co-options to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Health Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference and Appointments” advising of the statutory and constitutional provisions and requirements relating to the co-option of representatives in respect of education matters:

- 4.1 Section 9FA(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that an overview and scrutiny committee of a local Council may include persons who are not members of the Council. This provision empowers, rather than obliges, local authorities to have co-opted members on their overview and scrutiny committees.
- 4.2 However Schedule A1 to the LGA 2000 also has effect in relation to the Council's executive arrangements. Paragraph 7 of Schedule A1 makes provision for overview and scrutiny committees to have church representatives. The Council must have a Church of England co-opted member on its overview and scrutiny committee if the committee's functions relate wholly or partly to education functions and if the Council maintains one or more Church of England Schools. Similarly, the Council must have a Roman Catholic representative on its overview and scrutiny committee if the committee's functions relate wholly or partly to education functions and if the Council maintains one or more Roman Catholic schools.
- 4.3 Paragraph 7 of Schedule A1 to the LGA 2000 also deals with appointment of the church representatives. The Church of England representative must be nominated by the Diocesan Board of Education for any Church of England diocese which falls wholly or partly in Tower Hamlets. The Roman Catholic representative must be a nominated by the bishop of any Roman Catholic diocese which falls wholly or partly in Tower Hamlets.
- 4.4 Paragraph 8 of Schedule A1 to the LGA 2000 sets out power for the Secretary of State to make regulations requiring local authorities to have representatives of parent governors at maintained schools included on their overview and scrutiny committees. The Secretary of State has made the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001. Regulation 3 provides that a local education Council shall appoint at least two, but not more than five, parent governor representatives to any overview and scrutiny committee that has functions which relate wholly or partly to any education functions which are the responsibility of the Council's executive. The Regulations specify the process for electing representatives.
- 4.5 Consistent with the statutory provisions, the Council's Constitution provides in Part 3 “Responsibility for Functions”, for the membership of the overview and scrutiny committee to include a Church of England representative, a Roman Catholic representative and two Parent Governor representatives. The

Constitution also provides for the committee to have a non-voting Muslim faith representative, although this is not a statutory requirement.

4.6 The Constitution as amended (Part 4 – “Rules of Procedure”, Section 4.5 – “Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules”, Paragraph 4 “Education Representatives” Rule 4.1 states that “The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must include in its membership the following voting representatives in respect of education matters:

- One Church of England diocese representative;
- One Roman Catholic diocese representative; and
- Three parent governor representatives elected under the procedures contained in the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.”

Rule 4.2 states that “The Committee may also include a Muslim representative in a non-voting capacity. “

Rule 4.3 states that “These members may speak but not vote on any other (i.e. non educational) matters. “