


Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma Decision Log No: 119	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Matthew Mannion, Committees Manager, Democratic Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Nomination to Tower Hamlets Community Housing for 2015/16	

Is this a Key Decision?	No
Decision Notice Publication Date:	N/A
General Exception or Urgency Notice published?	Not required
Restrictions:	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As set out in the report to the General Purposes Committee on 3rd July 2012, it is the responsibility of the Mayor to appoint representatives to certain External Bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council.

Full details of the decision sought, including setting out the reasons for the recommendations and/or all the options put forward; other options considered; background information; the comments of the Chief Finance Officer; the concurrent report of the Head of Legal Services; implications for One Tower Hamlets; Risk Assessment; Background documents; and other relevant matters are set out in the attached report.

DECISION


The Mayor is recommended :

1. To agree to the nomination of Councillor Abdul Mukit to serve on the Board of Tower Hamlets Community Housing as set out in the attached report to serve until 31st May 2016.

APPROVALS

1. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  Date 4/1/16

2. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

I confirm that this decision:-


(a) has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan OR
(b) is urgent and subject to the 'General Exception' or 'Special Urgency' provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed  Date 5/1/16

3. Mayor

I agree the decision proposed in paragraph above for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.3. and 3.4 in the attached report.

Signed  Date 5/1/16

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Lead Member	Mayor John Biggs
Originating Officer(s)	Tom Scholes-Fogg, Committee Services Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Community Plan Theme	All
Key Decision?	No

Executive Summary

The Mayor has responsibility for appointing representatives to certain External Bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council. This report sets out the appointments that are required to Tower Hamlets Community Housing. These appointments are for one year.

Recommendations:

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Agree the nomination of Councillor Abdul Mukit to serve on the Board of Tower Hamlets Community Housing for a term of office ending on 31st May 2016.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Appointing representatives to outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the Borough.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Mayor could decide not to make appointments to outside bodies at all. However, this is not recommended as it would reduce the Council's opportunity to be involved in and to support good work within the community and it would also reduce the Council's leadership opportunities. There are also a number of bodies where the Council is required, or expected to provide a representative.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Participating in the work of external bodies is an important 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 guidance will be sent to all those appointed to external bodies.
- 3.2 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, but there is provision where necessary for Members appointed by the Council to report back to a meeting of the Council.
- 3.3 There is provision for two Councillors to serve on the Board of Tower Hamlets Community Housing. Appointments are made for one year. The former Mayor proposed nominations for 2014/15.
- 3.4 At the current time, one Councillor has nominated as a Tower Hamlets Community Housing Board member for 2015/16. This is Councillor Clare Harrison. Approval of this nomination has been agreed. The nomination for the second vacancy is the Councillor named in Recommendation 1 of this report, Councillor Abdul Mukit.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Part 3.2 of the Council's Constitution sets out Executive Functions and which includes appointment (and which would include nomination) of Councillors to external bodies save where the appointment is to a paid position or the appointment is not related to or in support of an executive function.
- 5.2 Housing Management is an Executive Function and therefore the appointment to the Tower Hamlets Community Housing Board is an Executive Function and therefore it is for The Mayor to nominate a Councillor to serve on the Board of THH.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Appointing representatives to outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the Borough.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Where appropriate it is important that any training/support needs of new appointees are identified by the bodies concerned and that appropriate training and support is delivered.
- 8.2. The appointment of representatives to external bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with the community. The appointment of representatives also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- None

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A