

Committee <b>General Purposes Committee</b>	Date <b>18<sup>th</sup> June, 2008</b>	Classification <b>Unrestricted</b>	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: <b>Service Head Democratic Services</b>		Title: <b>APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES</b>		
Originating Officer(s): <b>John S. Williams</b>		Ward(s) affected: <b>All</b>		

### SUMMARY

1. The Committee is requested to consider nominations received from the political groups on the Council for appointments to external bodies. Attached at Appendix A, is the schedule of appointments to be made. This has been revised to show the appointments made in 2007/2008, those required in 2008/2009 and any nominations received.
2. It should be noted that appointments to London Councils Committees and Forums were made by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008 because they required nominations by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

3. (i) That appointments be made to external bodies for the Municipal Year 2008/2009 as listed in Appendix A to the report;
- (ii) That the appointments to London Councils Committees and Forums made by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, as listed in Appendix B to the report, be noted; and
- (iii) That the 'Guidance for Members representing the Council on external bodies' at Appendix C be noted.

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#### 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

John S. Williams  
020 7364 4204

## **BACKGROUND**

4. The General Purposes Committee has been established by Council to enable the swift determination of non-executive matters, 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 (attached at Appendix A) to external bodies has been revised to show the appointments made in 2007/2008, those required in 2008/2009 and any nominations received. Appointments are made for one municipal year unless otherwise indicated.

## **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 C has been formulated to assist members. The Committee is invited to note the guidance which has been circulated to all members of the Council and posted 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, but there is provision where necessary for Members appointed by the Council to external bodies to report to the Council or General Purposes Committee on the work of the organisation and any implications for the Council.

## **CONSULTATION**

9. The political groups on the Council have been consulted prior to finalising the schedule at Appendix A.

## **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

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

## **CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)**

- 11.** There are no legal comments arising from this report.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.** There are no immediate equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

## **ANTI POVERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.** There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report.

## **SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 14.** There are no immediate SAGE implications arising from this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 15.** 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.