

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 25th November, 2019	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Recruitment of two (2) independent co-opted representatives to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	

Originating Officer(s)	David Knight, Principal Committee Services Officer
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

The report sets out the process for recruiting two (2) independent, co-opted representatives to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendations:

1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to agree the appointment of the two (2) independent co-opted representatives onto the Committee as detailed in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2.

1. **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 An advert, promoting the two (2) positions, was put on the Council's website and the positions were also advertised through social media. The interviews were undertaken by an interview panel including Councillor James King, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and officers. As a result of the interviews two (2) candidates were selected. Mr James Wilson and Ms Halima Islam to serve as Co-Opted Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period of the current administration.
- 1.2 Training will be provided by officers to the co-opted representatives on the Code of Conduct for Members which will include declarations of interest, exempt reports and data protection. An induction session will also be held to explain their role and how this can be developed.

2. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The recruitment of the two (2) co-opted vacancies was undertaken through an open, competitive route. As opposed to directly appointing the co-opted members from an established engagement forum or agency familiar to the Council.

3. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The open, competitive recruitment process has been designed to encourage applicants from a broad range of different backgrounds and interests within the local community. This is consistent with the aim of recognising and promoting the Council's equality duty. The appointment of co-opted members also brings local people's views to those discussions on issues of concern to local people, including services provided by other organisations. This helps to strengthen local community leadership, independent from Tower Hamlets Council.

4. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

- 4.2 There are no other statutory implications contained in this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 This report provides an update on the selection of two independent co-opted representatives for the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee and asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to endorse the candidates selected. The only financial implication as a result of the recommendation within this report is to note that each co-opted representative is entitled to claim an attendance allowance of £128 per meeting.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 6.1 Pursuant to section 9FA (4) and (5) of the 2000 Act, an overview and scrutiny committee of a local authority, or any sub-committee of such a committee, may include persons who are not members of the authority but any persons who are not members of the local authority are not entitled to vote at any meeting of its overview and scrutiny committee, or any sub-committee of such a committee.
- 6.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for agreeing the appointment of co-opted representatives. This report is asking for the Committee to approve the appointment of two (2) co-opted representatives to the Overview and Scrutiny

Committee and such request is within the Committees powers. Until such time as the Committee approves the appointment, the co-opted representatives cannot sit on the Committee

- 6.3 When taking action, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty).

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

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

- None

Officer contact details:

- N/A