

Cabinet 27 January 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: David Courcoux, Head of the Mayor's Office	Classification: Unrestricted
Nomination to Outside Bodies – Bethnal Green Business Centre	

Lead Member	Mayor John Biggs
Originating Officer(s)	Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committees)
Wards affected	All Wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	N/A
Reason for Key Decision	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough.

Executive Summary

It is the responsibility of the Mayor to nominate representatives to certain Outside Bodies on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council.

Paragraph 3.3 of the report lists proposed appointments to outside bodies for the Mayor to consider. Although all appointments are reviewed regularly, they are, unless stated elsewhere in this report, valid until such time as they are amended or renewed by a Mayoral decision.

Recommendations:

The cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree the nominate Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman to the Bethnal Green Business Centre.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Having representatives on 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 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Participating in the work of outside bodies is an important part of the role of elected Members and officers, 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 and officers 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 nominated to outside bodies.
- 3.2 A key part of this role is ensuring that information about the activities of outside 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.
- 3.3 The nominations to be made to Outside Bodies are:

Outside Body	Mayor or Council Nomination	Nominees permitted	2020/21 nominee(s)
Bethnal Green Business Development Centre	Mayor	1	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Bethnal Green Business Development Centre

- 3.4 The Bethnal Green Business Development Centre (BDC) offers affordable workspaces to SMEs as well as artists' studios. It also offers meeting spaces for the local community. It provides affordable workspaces for business in Tower Hamlets as well as studios for artists. The artists work with other organisations to produce works for public enlightenment and enjoyment in the form of exhibitions and public events. There is provision for the council to nominate one representative to the Centre's Board.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nominating 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

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

Risk Management Implications

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The nomination of representatives to outside bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with the community. The nomination of representatives also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report requests the Mayor in Cabinet to agree nominations to outside bodies as outlined in the table at section 3.3 and as such there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The appointments in paragraph 3.3 are the responsibility of the Executive. The Mayor therefore has responsibility for these appointments to outside bodies, including those relating to Council owned companies, under the Constitution, Part B, Paragraph 18 (3) – Executive Functions – other local choice functions and is legally entitled to make these appointments. This is under s.1 Localism Act 2011, the general power of competence.
- 7.2 Annual appointments should normally be made at the Annual General Meeting, but in-year appointments can be made by the Mayor. Although the

power in Part B, Paragraph 18 (3) – Executive Functions – other choice functions is expressed to be a one-off appointment, this is assumed to include the power to revoke the appointment if it is felt to be necessary (*paras. 19 and 20 Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000*).

- 7.3 When considering appointments or the approach to be taken to appointments, 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.

Appendices

None.

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

None.

Officer contact details for documents:

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