


<p>Cabinet</p> <p>30 June 2021</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Janet Fasan, Director Legal and Interim Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Nomination to Outside Bodies – London Councils committees</p>	

Lead Member	Mayor John Biggs
Originating Officer(s)	Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee)
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. The Mayor can choose to delegate decisions of this nature to the cabinet acting collectively and has done so for the nominations in this report.

Paragraph 3.3 of the report lists proposed appointments to Outside Bodies for the cabinet 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 Mayor/cabinet decision.

Recommendations:

The cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree the nominations to outside bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.3.

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.
- 1.2 London-wide initiatives can also offer considerable benefits that promote

delivery of the Council's key priorities. Conditions of some London-wide partnerships and trusts are that the Council is represented on their boards.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The cabinet 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 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 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	2021/22 nominee(s)
London Councils Leaders' Committee	Mayor	One voting member and up to two named deputies.	Mayor John Biggs; Cllr Rachel Blake (deputy) Cllr Asma Begum (deputy)
London Councils Transport and Environment Committee	Mayor	One voting member and up to four named deputies.	Cllr Dan Tomlinson; Cllr Asma Islam (deputy)
London Councils	Mayor	One voting	Cllr Candida

Outside Body	Mayor or Council Nomination	Nominees permitted	2021/22 nominee(s)
Grants Committee		member, and up to four named deputies.	Ronald; Cllr Asma Begum (deputy); Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman (deputy)
Greater London Employment Forum	Mayor	One voting member and one deputy	Mayor John Biggs; Cllr Candida Ronald (deputy)

London Councils

- 3.4 London Councils is the collective voice for London local government. It seeks to be an influential advocate for the interests of boroughs, promoting both councils' leadership of their places and of a broad range of public services on behalf of their localities. London Councils fights for the resources, powers and freedoms that boroughs need to play that role.
- 3.5 Leaders' Committee is London Councils' main decision-making body. The Committee includes the Leaders of each London borough council and is chaired by the Chair of London Councils. Leaders' Committee sets policy and takes decisions on the latest developments affecting London local government.
- 3.6 The Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) provides a range of high quality operational services such as parking and traffic appeals, the London night-time and weekend lorry ban, the Freedom Pass and Taxicard schemes. TEC aims to ensure that London boroughs' concerns and best practice are taken fully into account in the development and implementation of the whole range of transport and environment policies generated by Government departments, the European Union and the Mayor of London. The Committee deals with a wide array of issues.
- 3.7 The London Councils Grants scheme is funded and governed by the 32 London Boroughs and the Corporation of London. Leaders' Committee sets the overall funding strategies, policies and priorities for grants to voluntary organisations. Decisions on individual commissions, funding of applications and operation are made by the Grants Committee.
- 3.8 The Greater London Employment Forum (GLEF) - a joint forum comprising representatives of the London authorities within the scope of the London Agreement and the Corporation of London. The purpose of the GLEF is to

provide a forum where London employer and employee representatives can meet to discuss and debate employment matters of concern to the London authorities and their workforces and, where appropriate, recommend areas/opportunities for regional agreement and working.

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 Cabinet to agree the 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 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 don't (the public sector equality duty). It is important to be satisfied that any process followed is supportive of equal opportunity.
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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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