

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Thursday, 28 July 2022</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Janet Fasan, Director Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Appointment of Co-opted Members to Scrutiny Committee and Sub Committees</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

The Committee is asked to note the recruitment process for a number of co-opted member roles and agree that the selected candidates be appointed to the Committee and to its three sub committees.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree the appointment of the persons listed in the table at paragraph 3.4 to the co-opted positions indicated.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 To appoint persons to co-opted roles on the Committee and its three sub committees in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules and the terms or reference of each body.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Committee could decide not to appoint one or more of the proposed persons. This is not recommended as it would weaken community involvement in scrutiny at LBTH. The proposed persons have been selected as the preferred candidates for the role(s) following an open and competitive recruitment exercise.

2. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Introduction

- 3.1 As was reported to the Committee in June 2022, the Local Government Act 2000 provides that the Committee and its sub committees may include persons

who are not members of the Council. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and the terms of reference for the Committee and its three sub committees together provide that scrutiny at LBTH shall include the following 12 co-opted member roles:

- a) OSC has two co-opted resident representative members.
 - b) Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee has two co-opted members: a leaseholder representative and a tenant representative.
 - c) Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee has two co-opted members – a resident representative and a representative nominated from Healthwatch Tower Hamlets (see paragraph 3.3 below).
 - d) Children and Education Scrutiny Sub Committee includes a co-opted representative from the Muslim community.
 - e) Five statutory education co-optees (see paragraph 3.3 below).
- 3.2 As was also reported in June 2022, an open recruitment process has been undertaken to select preferred candidates for roles (a) – (d). This report advises of the outcome of this process and asks the Committee to formally appoint the selected preferred candidates.
- 3.3 The Council's scrutiny arrangements provide for the appointment of statutory education co-optees who sit on the Children's and Education Scrutiny Sub Committee. These statutory education co-optees are not chosen through open recruitment and are not considered directly in this report. Statutory education co-optees were appointed at the Committee meeting in June 2022 which also appointed the Healthwatch Tower Hamlets nominee to the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee.

Recruitment of Scrutiny Co-optees 2022

- 3.4 An open, competitive recruitment process has been undertaken to select the preferred candidate for each of the co-optee roles. An advert promoting the roles was put on the Council's website and the roles were also advertised through social media. Shortlisting and interviews for each role were undertaken by a dedicated mixed interview panel including the Chair of the Committee or relevant scrutiny sub committee and officers. As a result of the selection process, the candidates below were selected to serve as co-opted members for the roles shown. The Committee is asked to formally appoint the persons listed below to the co-opted roles indicated for the period of the current administration.

Body	Role	Co-optee
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Resident rep 1	Halima Islam
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Resident rep 2	Jahid Ahmed
Housing and Regeneration sub	Tenant rep	Mahbub Anam
Housing and Regeneration sub	Leaseholder rep	Susanna Kow
Children and Education Sub	Muslim community rep	Shiblu Miah
Health And Adults Sub	Resident rep	TBC*

*Recruitment for the resident rep on the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee has been delayed. Once a preferred candidate has been selected for this role, a report will be presented to a future meeting of the Committee for formal approval.

- 3.5 The Council's Code of Conduct for Members applies to scrutiny co-optees. Training will be provided by officers to the co-opted representatives on the Code of Conduct which will include declarations of interest, exempt reports and data protection.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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.

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.

- 5.2 The Council's Code of Conduct for Members applies to scrutiny co-optees. Training will be provided by officers to the co-opted representatives on the Code of Conduct which will include declarations of interest, exempt reports and data protection.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report provides an update on the selection of co-opted representatives for **the Committee and its sub-committees** 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 **£132** per meeting. This will be funded within existing budget.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Pursuant to section 9FA (4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 2000, 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, except where this is permitted under Schedule A1 to the Act. Paragraph 11 of Schedule A1 permits a Local Authority to allow a co-opted representative to the Committee or sub-committee to vote in accordance with a scheme. The Council's Constitution permits the appointment of a Muslim representative to the Education sub-committee and for that representative to vote on education matters only.
- 7.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for agreeing the appointment of coopted 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
- 7.3 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.

Appendices

- None.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended) List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

Joel West, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee)