

Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee 21 September 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Guidance for Members and Officers on Outside Organisations	

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

Executive Summary

The report presents to the Committee the current Guidance for Members and Officers on Outside Organisations and invites members to review the Guidance and consider whether it is content to approve the draft final version attached to this report.

This Guidance has been revised following suggestions made by members of the committee in September 2022 and more recently by Fiona Browne (Vice Chairman of the Committee).

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and comment on the draft amended Guidance for Members and Officers on Outside Organisations at Appendix 1 to the report (showing tracked changes).

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Standards Advisory Committee has a role in overseeing standards of member behaviour . It is therefore appropriate for the Committee to consider whether the Guidance provides members with the information necessary to support ethical behaviours and conduct when sitting on outside organisations.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Committee may make any suggestions it deems appropriate for consideration by the Monitoring Officer.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The draft amended Guidance for Members and Officers on Outside Organisations is at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 The Guidance is designed for members and officers. It sets out general expectations of both and includes an appendix which reflects the duties of directors/trustees as set out in law. It also sets out the various types of organisations that members may typically be appointed to.
- 3.3 The Standards Advisory Committee has a role in overseeing standards of behaviour on the part of members appointed to outside organisations.
- 3.4 The Committee is therefore asked to review the draft amended Guidance as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and make any final comments for the Monitoring Officer to consider.
- 3.5 3.5 The Monitoring officer has reviewed the Guidance, following suggestions made by the Committee last year and more recently by the Vice Chairman of the Committee.
- 3.6 It should be noted that an external review of the Council's governance in 2020, also recommended that the council review the appropriateness of current arrangements for supporting appointees to outside bodies to fulfil their responsibilities. The Guidance document forms a part of the framework of support.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee should consider the extent to which the Guidance supports equality of opportunity and engagement for all Members and officers including any impact on protected characteristics.

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 None.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The Guidance document sets out important information for members that are appointed to outside organisations. It is essential that it is reviewed from time to time to ensure that it reflects the law and meets members' needs.

7.2 The Guidance does not form part of the Members Code of Conduct.

7.3 Whilst the Committee can make recommendations about changes to the Guidance, the final document will need to be approved by the General Purposes Committee.

7.4 As set out at paragraph 4.1 of the report, the Committee should pay regard to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) and its obligations to equality and diversity in facilitating and/or discharging the business of the Council including the extent to which they have informed the Guidance and any proposed revisions to it as part of the Committee's review.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Guidance for Members and Officers on Outside Organisations with tracked changes

Appendix 2 – Guidance for Members and Officers on Outside Organisations without tracked changes

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Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

