

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 27 September 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Appointment of a Co-Optee to the Standards Advisory Committee	

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

Executive Summary

The Standards Advisory Committee recently ran a recruitment exercise to fill a vacancy for a co-opted Member on the Committee.

From a very strong field, the recruitment panel selected Faham Sinan-Katamba as the candidate to recommend for appointment.

Council is therefore requested to agree the appointment of Faham Sinan-Katamba as a co-optee for a four-year term on the Committee.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Appoint Faham Sinan-Katamba as a Co-Opted Member of the Standards Advisory Committee for a four-year term, expiring 28 September 2027.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are currently four Independent Co-Opted Members of the Standards Advisory Committee and a vacant post. There are also five Councillor Members of the Committee.
- 1.2 Ensuring full independent representation on the Committee is best practice in the operation of the Standards Advisory Committee.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council may choose not to confirm the appointment. This course of action is not recommended.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Standards Advisory Committee has undertaken a full recruitment exercise to select a new co-opted Member to fill the vacancy on the Committee.
- 3.2 This included the standard recruitment advertising, shortlisting, interviews and pre-recruitment checks. The panel consisted of:
- John Pulford: Co-Opted Chair of the Committee
 - Janet Fasan: Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer
 - Matthew Mannion: Head of Democratic Services
- 3.3 Following the process, the panel determined, from a number of high-quality applicants that Faham Sinan-Katamba was, overall, the best scoring and most suitable candidate and should be offered the position.
- 3.4 Appointment of Members to Committees of the Council is the responsibility of Council. Therefore, this report asks for Council's agreement to appoint Faham Sinan-Katamba to the Standards Advisory Committee as a co-opted Member for the standard four-year term.
- 3.5 John Pulford, Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee, who Chaired the panel reported that:

“Faham Sinan-Katamba has a strong background in supporting East London projects and organisations across our many communities and age groups. He has a strong understanding of expectations around governance and standards with lots of relevant experience in the field.”

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is important for the role of the Standards Advisory Committee that external co-optees are involved in providing input to ensure the Council maintains strong governance of the Member Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 When undertaking the recruitment process work was undertaken to encourage applications from our diverse local community.

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 Not having a well-functioning Standards Advisory Committee is a risk to the governance of the authority.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Co-opted Members are funded from within the existing Members' Allowances budget of £1.1m.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 As indicated in paragraph 3.4 above, the appointment of co-opted Members to the Standards Advisory Committee is the responsibility of Council. A proper recruitment process has been followed and there are no other legal implications arising from this report.

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

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

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A