

<b>Cabinet</b>  13 December 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Lisa Fraser, Acting Corporate Director of Childrens	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Young Mayor Election 2024-2026</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Talukdar, Deputy Mayor</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Susannah Beasley-Murray Kelly Duggan
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	6 November 2023
<b>Exempt information</b>	NA
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	All

### Executive Summary

All children and young people from years 7-13 who live, study or work in Tower Hamlets are eligible to either stand as a candidate or to vote meaning that there are approximately 22,075 potential voters within our schools, colleges and sixth forms. The elections now take place every 2 years and voting for the 2024 election will take place between 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 with the results announced at the Town Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and the new Young Mayor inaugurated on that evening.

The Young Mayor represents young people across the borough and is elected every two years. Over the past few years, the Young Mayor elections have gained enormous momentum in engaging young people with local democracy and the world of politics in Tower Hamlets. The Young Mayor and their deputies attend meetings with local councillors and decision makers. They also represent the young people of Tower Hamlets at regional and national meetings. They work closely with the Tower Hamlets Executive Mayor, Chief Executive, Directors and the Tower Hamlets Youth Council and other key stakeholders locally and nationally.

## **Recommendations:**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the updated timeline for the Young Mayor elections with the results being announced by the returning officer, Steve Halsey on 13.12.2023.

### **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has demonstrated a commitment since 2006 to having the Young Mayor and their cabinet. This paper is to ensure that the Councillors are aware of the process prior to the results being announced on 13.12.2023. This is the process as recommended by CIVITAS.

### **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The only alternative option is to have this paper provided to full Council following the elections close. However, this will delay the results being announced to candidates and will impact the process and risk disengaging the children and young people who are very invested in the election.

### **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Young Mayor and their team are a group of young people who live in the borough who wish to take part in democracy and what they see as their civic duty.
- 3.2 All children and young people from years 7-13 who live, study or work in Tower Hamlets are eligible to either stand as a candidate or to vote meaning that there are approximately 22,075 potential voters within our schools, colleges and sixth forms.
- 3.3 The Young Mayor represents young people across the borough and is elected every two years. Over the past few years, the Young Mayor elections have gained enormous momentum in engaging young people with local democracy and the world of politics in Tower Hamlets. The Young Mayor and their deputies attend meetings with local councillors and decision makers. They also represent the young people of Tower Hamlets at regional and national meetings. They work closely with the Tower Hamlets Executive Mayor, Chief Executive, Directors and the Tower Hamlets Youth Council and other key stakeholders locally and nationally.
- 3.4 In this election, the Young Mayor will have five deputies, who will also be elected for two years and who will lead on the following areas:
  - Social and economic development;
  - Communications;

- Environment;
- Health and wellbeing and;
- Community

3.5 The elections now take place every 2 years and voting for the 2024 election will take place between 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 with the results announced at the Town Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and the new Young Mayor inaugurated on that evening.

### 3.6 Previous Elections

Tower Hamlets Election Results			
Year	Voter Participation	Percentage	Young Mayor
2006	3128/18130 (ONS)	17.25%	Raju Miah
2007	4268/18130 (ONS)	23.54%	Jahid Ahmed
2008	4279/18130 (ONS)	23.60%	Akram Hussain
2009	6365/18130 (ONS)	35.11%	Uma Akther
2010	8500/17034 (no of pupils)	49.90%	Landry Adelard
2011	8715/16613 (no of pupils)	52.50%	Nahimul Hussain
2013	10,184/17273 (no of pupils)	59.00%	Mahdi Alam
2015	10,775/14,976 (no of pupils)	71.95%	Deng Yan San
2017	10,709/16,042 (no of pupils)	66.75%	Fahimul Islam
2019	11,736/17,175 (no of pupils)	68.33%	Jaami Barry
2021	5,996/177733 (no of pupils)	33.65%	Tahmid Hussen

3.7 In 2021, the first online election was conducted in Tower Hamlets with a target of reaching 25% of the youth population. This was exceeded by a turnout of 33.65% and we hope to increase this even further this election period.

### 3.8 Election Timeline so far

Date	Activity
September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current Young Mayor and Team create article for Our East End</li> <li>- Young Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO's promotional video launched on the LBTH's website</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023	Applications for Young Mayor 2024-2026 open
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	Applications for Young Mayor 2024-2026 closed
October 2023	5 workshops held with all Young Mayor Applicants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> - Workshop 1 Induction;</li> <li>- <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> - Workshop 1 (Group work &amp; Presentation);</li> <li>- <b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> - Workshop 2 (Debate);</li> <li>- <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b> – Workshop 3 (Manifesto writing);</li> <li>- <b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct</b> – Workshop 4 (Budgeting);</li> <li>- <b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b> - Interviews with Exiting Young Mayor Team;</li> <li>- <b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>- Campaign training with Campaign Team;</li> </ul>
November 2023	Campaigning Begins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campaign in schools (schools pre notified, polling cards pre-delivered to school, headteachers bulletin);</li> <li>- One-page in Our East End (TBC) all of the candidates featured;</li> <li>- Update website with Manifestos;</li> <li>- Surgeries held to support candidates as drop-in sessions;</li> </ul>

	- Campaign Videos uploaded to the LBTH and CIVICA website
<b>December 2023</b>	<b>Election Week:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> (am) to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> (5pm);</li> <li>- Inauguration 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023;</li> <li>- Follow up Our East End feature with new Young Mayor.</li> </ul>
<b>January 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First Young Mayor Team meeting;</li> <li>- Youth Cabinet pick roles;</li> </ul>

3.9 We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the work of the current Young Mayor and his team for dedication to serving the young people of Tower Hamlets. Over their two year term, Young Mayor Tahmid Hussen and his team have been to many events, spoken to the Executive Mayor and the Chief Executive and other senior managers to get theirs and other voices heard. They have also been instrumental in ensuring that we celebrate the successes of young people in the borough and this culminated in the Youth Awards which took place in December 2022 at the Queen Mary University of London Octagon Hall.

#### 4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All children and young people from years 7-13 who live, study or work in Tower Hamlets are eligible to either stand as a candidate or to vote meaning that there are approximately 22,075 potential voters within our schools, colleges and sixth forms.

## **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Young Mayor is a key example of having our younger residents having their voices heard at the highest level. This is true consultation and representation of young people in Tower Hamlets. The Young Mayor and their team will each take a key area that impacts our youngest residents and will consult with young people and try to influence decision makers to improve services.

## **6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

## **7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report.

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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:**

Kelly Duggan, Head of Youth Justice and Young People's Services