

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  18 January 2017	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Co-Opted Members</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## Summary

The Council has appointed an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to perform the functions set out in Part Two, Article Six of the Constitution (OSC Terms of Reference). The Committee is empowered to include both voting and non-voting co-opted members from the community.

Following the expiry of terms of office of current co-optees, the Council has conducted a campaign to seek nominations to all six co-opted positions on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Nominations have now been received. The Council's Constitution states that such appointments must be approved by Council.

## Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the following nominations for co-optees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
  - a. Dr Philip Rice as the Church of England diocese representative;
  - b. Victoria Ekubia as the Roman Catholic diocese representative;
  - c. Asad Jaman as the Muslim faith representative; and
  - d. Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, Christine Trumper and Fatiha Kassouri as parent governor representatives.
  
2. Agree that the appointments above will take effect immediately and will be reviewed following the Council elections in May 2018.

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

- 1.1 The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions. The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules which are set out in the Council's Constitution provide detail as to how the Committee carries out its work.
- 1.2 Section 9FA of the Local Government Act 2000 specifies that 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. Pursuant to Schedule A1 to the Local Government Act 2000 the Council must have specified categories of co-opted members on its overview and scrutiny committee who will be entitled to vote on education matters. Otherwise, it is for the Council to determine what co-opted members the Committee will have and what voting rights will be given to co-opted members of the Committee.
- 1.3 Rule 4 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules provides that the Committee must include specified co-opted members, in accordance with the legislative requirement.
- 1.4 In accordance with statutory requirements and as permitted within the discretion given by the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has determined that the OSC will include six co-optees as follows:
- One Church of England diocese representative;
  - One Roman Catholic diocese representative;
  - One Muslim faith representative; and
  - Three parent governor representatives.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Council could decide to not appoint the proposed nominees, however this would mean the Council's statutory and constitutional obligations to include co-optees in the membership of its Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not met.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 3.1 The Council has conducted a campaign to recruit co-optees for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 In accordance with statute, a nomination was requested from the Church of England and Roman Catholic Church dioceses for their representatives. Both dioceses informed the Council that the current co-optees were re-nominated.

The Church of England and Roman Catholic Church nominees are listed in the recommendation above.

3.3 An open recruitment process was held for the Muslim faith representative co-optee. At the deadline, the Council had received one application, Mr Asad Jaman, who is Head of Assets and Facilities at the London Muslim Centre.

3.4 The Council has previously resolved, In July 2014:

*'That in future the principal consultation when filling this post will be the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques.'*

3.5 In accordance with this Council resolution, the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques was consulted on the nomination. The Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques has informed the Council it is happy with the nomination of Mr Jaman.

3.6 In accordance with statute, an open recruitment process was held for the three parent governor positions, whereby all current parent governors of Tower Hamlets maintained schools were invited to self-nominate. At the deadline the Council had received three applications; the maximum number of nominations without the need to hold an election. The nominees are listed in the recommendation above.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

4.1 The selection and recruitment of co-opted members has been carried out through existing resources and the allowances for attending the Committee meetings will be funded through existing member allowance budgets. There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

#### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

5.1 This report is submitted by the Acting Corporate Director, Governance, and all relevant legal and constitutional issues are referred to in the body of the report.

#### **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 None specific to this report.

#### **7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None specific to this report.

#### **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

8.1 None specific to this report.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None specific to this report.

**10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None specific to 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**

- Application forms of nominees for parent governor and Muslim representative co-optees.

**Officer contact details for documents:**

- Joel West, Senior Committee Officer