

## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

**27 April 2021**

**Title:** Appointments to the Political Structure and Other Bodies 2021/22

### **Report of the Strategic Director of Law and Governance**

<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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**Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:** Fiona Taylor, Strategic Director of Law & Governance

### **Summary**

The Assembly is responsible for appointments to the political structure and various other internal and external bodies, except those reserved to the Leader and/or Cabinet Members.

Appendix 1 to this report shows the proposed appointments for the 2021/22 municipal year relating to Council committees and other internal and external bodies which are the responsibility of the Assembly. The appointment of the Mayor for 2021/22 will be dealt with at the meeting of the Ceremonial Council which will immediately follow this meeting of the Assembly.

As this meeting is taking place prior to the Thames ward by-election on 6 May 2021, it is also proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised to approve the appointment of the newly elected councillor to any vacant positions on committees, which would otherwise have to wait until the next meeting of the Assembly on 21 July 2021.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Assembly is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the appointments to various Council committees and other internal and external bodies, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and
- (ii) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve the appointment of the new Thames ward councillor, to be elected on 6 May 2021, to vacant positions on Council committees.

### **Reason(s)**

To meet the statutory and constitutional requirements and to ensure relevant positions are appointed to.

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Part 2, Chapter 4 of the Constitution sets out the Assembly's responsibilities in respect of appointments to the political structure and various other internal and external bodies.
- 1.2 The appointments meet statutory and constitutional requirements and ensure the Council is able to proceed with the business reserved to the committees.
- 1.3 The nomination process for the various positions to which appointments are required for the municipal year 2021/22 is dealt with through party groups which, for Barking and Dagenham, is just the Labour Group.

## **2. Proposal and Issues**

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the provisional schedule of nominations from the Labour Group for the 2021/22 municipal year in respect of appointments which the Assembly has responsibility for appointing to. These appointments relate to main Council committees and other internal and external body meetings.
- 2.2 Any changes / additions to the information contained in the appendix will be reported at the meeting.
- 2.3 The Labour Group has agreed not to fill all seats on Council committees to which the Assembly makes appointments to allow the new Thames ward councillor, who will be elected on 6 May 2021, to take up at least one position on a Council committee. In normal circumstances any such appointment would require the approval of the Assembly. However, as the next meeting is not until 21 July 2021 it is proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader, to approve the new councillor's appointment to appropriate vacant positions to enable that individual to participate as a formal Member in relevant meetings as soon as possible.

## **3. Options Appraisal**

- 3.1 Any delay in reappointing Members to the various meetings and other bodies puts the normal decision-making process and business of the Council at risk.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with Members and officers as appropriate.

## **5. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by Katherine Heffernan, Head of Service Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. This concerns the annual appointment of elected Members to Boards and Committees. Where an appointment carries an allowance the financial impact of this is set out in another report to this meeting.

## **6. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Lawyer

- 6.1 The Assembly is a meeting of full Council for the purposes of Section 8 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1972. This meeting of the Assembly is the annual meeting where the Council decides on the overall political structure and makes the necessary appointments.
- 6.2 Part 2 (the Articles) of the Council's Constitution sets out the membership requirements and terms of reference for the various Council committees. The appointments in this report meet statutory and constitutional requirements and ensure the Council is able to proceed with the business reserved to each committee.
- 6.3 As appointments to vacant committee positions is an Assembly function, and there will be a considerable time gap between the Thames Ward by-election on 6 May 2021 and the next Assembly being some ten weeks later, it is proposed in this report that the Assembly delegate the power to appoint on this occasion to the Chief Executive pursuant to section 101(1) Local Government Act 1972, so as to enable the new Member to take a full part in the Council's business straight away.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:**

- **Appendix 1 - Nominations to main Council committees and other internal and external body meetings 2021/22**