

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

25 May 2022

Title: Appointments to the Political Structure and Other Bodies 2022/23	
Report of the Interim Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Fiona Taylor, Interim Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Law & Governance	
Summary <p>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.</p> <p>The nominations are due to be considered by the Labour Group at its annual general meeting on Monday 23 May. A schedule of the nominations will, therefore, be tabled at the meeting (and published in advance if possible).</p> <p>The appointment of the Mayor for 2022/23 will be dealt with at the meeting of the Ceremonial Council on Friday 27 May.</p>	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Assembly is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Approve the appointments to various Council committees and other internal and external bodies; and(ii) Delegate authority to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve the appointment of councillors to fill any vacant positions prior to the next meeting of the Assembly on 27 July 2022.	
Reason(s) <p>To meet the statutory and constitutional requirements and to ensure relevant positions are appointed to.</p>	

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.

2. Proposal and Issues

- 2.1 The nomination process for the various positions to which appointments are required for the municipal year 2022/23 is dealt with through party groups which, for Barking and Dagenham, is just the Labour Group.
- 2.2 The nominations will be considered at the Labour Group AGM on Monday 23 May and will be reported at the meeting.
- 2.3 Bearing in mind that the Local Elections have only recently taken place, it is possible that not all vacant positions are nominated to at that Labour Group meeting. Therefore, to avoid any undue delay in filling vacant positions prior to the next meeting of the Assembly on 27 July, it is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve the appointment of councillors to fill any vacant positions in the meantime.

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 It is further proposed that the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to approve the appointment of councillors to fill any vacant positions that may not be filled at this Assembly meeting. This is permissible pursuant to section 101(1) of the 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: None