



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

**APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER
ORGANISATIONS, 2023/24**

SLT Lead:

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Policy context:

The Council appoints Members and others to serve on a variety of other bodies

Financial summary:

There are no significant financial implications.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

[x] People - Things that matter for residents

[x] Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

[x] Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

SUMMARY

The Council makes appointments to a large number of other organisations, some statutory, others voluntary.

Since the executive governance arrangements were revised, responsibility for making Executive appointments has passed from this Committee to the Leader of the Council, but the Constitution provides that in the case of Non-Executive appointments, it is for this Committee to make decisions

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. **AGREE to APPOINT** Councillor Jacqueline Williams and to **NOTE** the vacancy arising from Mr Ron Ower's resignation from the Poyntz Charity Trust.
2. **NOTE** the current situation in regard to the Lucas Play Charity Trust
3. **AGREE to APPOINT** Councillor Paul Middleton to the Havering Theatre Trust Board in place of Mr Melvin Wallace
4. **NOTE** that Councillor Darvill has replaced Councillor McGeary as the Council's representative on Capital Letters
5. **NOTE** additional information on the election of Governors to the North East London Foundation Trust

REPORT DETAIL

1. POYNTZ CHARITY

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Committee on 7th June 2023, it was agreed that Councillor Morgon should be appointed to the vacancy on the Poyntz Charity, pending further enquiries by Officers as to the Charity's active status.
- 1.2 In October 2023, the Governance Officer made contact with the current Secretary of the Poyntz Charity and it was established that the Trust is active and would welcome representation from the Council.
- 1.3 Councillor Morgon resigned his temporary appointment to the Trust on 29th October and expressions of interest for the vacancy were invited from Councillors in the Cranham and Upminster Wards, where the alms-houses are situated.

- 1.4** Councillor Jacqueline Williams indicated that she would be willing to serve as one of Havering's representatives on the Trust, and has subsequently met informally with the current Members
- 1.5** In addition, Mr Ron Ower's term of office is due to expire in March 2024. Mr Ower has indicated that he does not wish to be re-appointed as the Council's representative beyond his current term. Trustees need not be elected Members of the Council and the Trust intends to canvas in the New Year for new members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee AGREES to APPOINT Councillor Jacqueline Williams as one of the London Borough of Havering's representatives on the Poyntz Charity Trust until March 2028.

2. Lucas Play Site Charity Trust

- 2.1** The Trust was established to use the investment income derived from proceeds from the sale of land for the improvement of play site facilities across the Borough.
- 2.2** Under the terms of the Trust, the Council appoints two nominative trustees for a four-year term of office. In turn, the nominative trustees can co-opt up to three additional trustees.
- 2.3** Councillor Robert Benham and Councillor Osman Dervish were appointed as the Council's representatives until November 2023.
- 2.4** The Parks Development Manager reported that the last meeting of the Trust took place in 2019. Officers are keen to revive the Trust in order to access much needed finance.
- 2.5** Expressions of interest were invited from Members on 20th November, but to date, there has been no response.

3. HAVERING THEATRE TRUST

- 3.1** The Articles of the Havering Theatre Trust provide for up to three representatives appointed by the London Borough of Havering, providing that they do not possess 20% or more of the entire membership of the Board.
- 3.2** The current representatives are Councillor Paul McGeary and Mr Melvin Wallace.
- 3.3** Councillor Paul Middleton, Cabinet Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services, has expressed a wish to join the Board, but under current arrangements, this would take the Council's share of the Board membership over the 20% threshold.
- 3.4** In order to prevent a breach of the Articles, it is therefore proposed that the Committee should appoint Councillor Middleton to the Board in place of Mr Wallace, who will remain as a member in his own right, rather than as an appointee of the Local Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee AGREES to APPOINT Councillor Paul Middleton as the London Borough of Havering's representative on the Havering Theatre Trust in place of Mr Melvin Wallace.

4. CAPITAL LETTERS

- 4.1** The position on Capital Letters is an Executive appointment, which can be made by the Leader of the Council. In May 2023, Councillor Paul McGeary, who was then Cabinet Member for Housing, was appointed to this role.
- 4.2** After the changes to Cabinet portfolios took place in October 2023, it was considered more appropriate that Councillor Keith Darvill, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing Need, should replace Councillor Paul McGeary as the Council's representative on Capital Letters

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee NOTES that Councillor Keith Darvill has replaced Councillor Paul McGeary as the London Borough of Havering's representative on Capital Letters to align with updated Cabinet portfolios.

5. NORTH EAST LONDON FOUNDATION TRUST BOARD OF GOVERNORS

At the last meeting of the Council's Governance Committee, Members requested further information on the arrangements for election to the North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) board of Governors, which is summarised below:

- The composition of the Council of Governors is:
 - 25 elected governors (17 public governors, 8 staff governors)
 - 7 appointed governors
- Elections take place every three years approximately. When an election is planned, it will be announced on the NELFT website and in other media.
- Eligible candidates will be given the opportunity to nominate themselves as a governor by completing a nomination statement. This information is then sent to members in the area covered by the Trust, who will vote for their preferred candidate.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

In some cases, membership of an organisation is dependent upon the Council paying a subscription: where relevant, the subscription will be met from within an appropriate budget provision and cost is minimal.

Legal implications and risks:

These appointments are administrative and have no direct legal implications or risks. However, Members who sit on outside bodies will need to consider whether (a) they are required to register their interests with the Council and, where appropriate, declare the interests at meetings and (b) seek advice when they are potentially involved in Council decisions that may affect the outside body. As there is no remuneration for the appointments, they are very unlikely to be discloseable pecuniary interests. Trustee status means that the trustee must always act in the best interests of the trust. The Monitoring Officer is available to provide advice as and when necessary.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are none directly associated with this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are no specific implications or risks. Appointments should be made with the Council's equalities policies in mind.

Environmental implications and risks:

There are none directly associated with this report.