

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

6 May 2025

Subject Heading:

**APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER
ORGANISATIONS, 2025/26**

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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

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council X

SUMMARY

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

Since the current governance arrangements came into force in 2002, responsibility for making executive appointments has passed from this Committee to the Leader of the Council, but the Constitution provides that this Committee agrees appointments to non-executive positions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- 1 (a) The Committee determine appointments to the non executive organisations referred to in this report for the period until the meeting that deals with appointments for the municipal year, 2026/2027 (or such other period as may be relevant in any specific case).
- (b) Where the appointment is executive, the Committee **RECOMMEND** to the Leader that the appointment be made.
- 2 Where the Council's representative (or any deputy or alternative representative where applicable) is unable to attend a particular meeting and the constitutional arrangements of the body in question so permit, that representative may authorise the Chair of the meeting to exercise a proxy vote.
- 3 The Council's voting rights at the General Assembly of the Local Government Association be exercised by the Leader of the Council (5 votes, or his respective nominee in the event he is unable to vote in person).

REPORT DETAIL

- 1.1 The Committee is authorised to make all appointments to outside bodies and other organisations, apart from executive appointments, which are made by the Leader. Appointments are for the period expiring at the first meeting of this Committee in the municipal year 2026/27, except where otherwise specifically provided.
- 1.2 **Appendix 1** Executive appointments. **The Committee is asked to review the appointments and confirm recommendations to the Leader.**
- 1.3 **Appendix 2** lists the appointments made by office-held and by individual member, but are not executive. The number of appointees required for each organisation is indicated in brackets. **The Committee is asked to review these appointments and agree any changes to be made.**
- 1.4 Appointments that do not require review or renewal for the present are shown in italics. **The Committee is asked to note these appointments.**

2. Exercise of voting rights:

- 2.1 In some cases, the constitution of an organisation permits the casting of proxy votes if the appointed representative is unable to attend a meeting.
- 2.2 In order to avoid a possible loss of influence, it is the Council's usual practice to agree that, where the Council's representative (or any deputy or alternative representative where applicable) is unable to attend a particular meeting and the constitutional arrangements of the body in question so permit, that representative may authorise the Chair of the meeting to exercise a proxy vote.

The Committee is asked to agree to that practice continuing for the coming year.

- 2.4 The Council is entitled to 5 votes in the General Assembly of the Local Government Association. Previously, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition were allocated 4 votes and 1 vote each respectively. At the meeting of Governance Committee on 12th August 2020, it was agreed that all 5 votes should be cast by the Leader.

The Committee is asked to ratify the voting arrangements for the forthcoming year.

3. Poyntz and Other Charities

- 3.1 The Poyntz Charity is a local charity, administering benefits for the poor, including two almshouses in North Ockendon. The Council appoints three of the trustees. Trustees can be Councillors, but it is not a requirement of the scheme of appointment.
- 3.2 The Parish Priest of St Mary Magdalene's, North Ockenden is the ex-officio Chair of the trust, but the incumbency is currently vacant and a new vicar has yet to be appointed
- 3.3 In December 2024, the long serving Secretary resigned and moved out of the area. This left only one Committee Member who is in full time employment, with limited time to spare. The Trust has therefore been unable to meet and faces an uncertain future.

The Committee is asked to **NOTE** the position in respect of the Poyntz Charity.

4. Hornchurch Housing Trust

- 4.1 In accordance with the Hornchurch Housing Trust's Constitution, the Council is required to appoint one Trustee to the Charity.
- 4.2 The late Mr John Mylod was the Council's representative and his term of office was due to expire in February 2026.

- 4.3 The Trust has requested that Mr Mylod be replaced by Councillor Carol Smith, who already sits on the Charity as a non-Council appointed Trustee.

At the request of the Trust, the Committee is asked to **AGREE** the appointment of Councillor Smith as the Council's representative on the Hornchurch Housing Trust until such time as Councillor Smith chooses to resign.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Equalities and Social Inclusion Implications and Risks

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

Legal, Finance and Environmental Implications and Risks

These appointments are administrative and have no direct legal, financial or environmental implications or risks. In instances where membership of an organisation is dependent upon the Council paying a subscription, the subscription will be met from within an appropriate budget provision.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None