

Committee(s): Community and Children's Services Committee– For Decision	Dated: 20 September 2024
Subject: Non-Voting External Representative Appointment(s) to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Blair Stringman, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

The Terms of Reference for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee was agreed by the Community and Children's Services Committee in March 2024 to allow the appointment of three non-voting external Members to bolster its Membership.

Following changes to the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee in March 2024, external representative vacancies were advertised with seven candidates shortlisted for interview. The recruitment panel interviewed candidates and further shortlisted their preferred candidates for onward recommendation and approval of the grand committee, the Community and Children's Services Committee, for terms as detailed in the recommendation(s). This report seeks approval for the shortlisted candidates for terms listed in the recommendation(s).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to approve the appointment of the candidate(s) shortlisted for the following terms:

- a) For a term of two years, James Breed
- b) For a term of two years, Patrick Fowler
- c) For a term of three years, Irmani Smallwood

Main Report

Background

1. To ensure the Sub-Committee has access to necessary expertise to promote its success, it was recommended that the composition be revised to include up to three external representatives.
2. Following changes to the Terms of Reference to enable appointments of three non-voting representatives, an open and transparent approach to the recruitment of external representatives, which followed a similar approach to the recruitment of external representatives on other City of London Committees, including advertising on the Corporation website and use of LinkedIn and other mechanisms to generate interest took place.
3. After closing of the advert, interviews took place with a panel. The panel consisted of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee and the Homelessness & Rough Sleepers Service Manager. Seven candidates were shortlisted with three candidates emerging for approval.
4. All CVs are available to Members on request to the Town Clerk.

Current Position

5. The need for the best possible expertise at the Sub-Committee is vitally important. Accordingly, it is proposed that the three external representatives who, in addition to the expertise of Members, bring specific areas of expertise to the Sub-Committee be approved as Members of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.
6. The Community and Children's Services Committee were consulted on the shortlisted candidates and were provided with their CV's. There was no feedback from Members following consultation.
7. It should be noted that one of the three external candidates who originally had accepted the position has now withdrawn their acceptance from the Sub-Committee and following consultation, the original panel Members have put forward a candidate who has accepted from the existing shortlist.

Options

8. Option 1 (This option is recommended)

To approve the appointment of the candidate(s) shortlisted for terms specified in the recommendation(s) of this report.

9. Option 2 (This option is not recommended)

To not approve the appointment of the candidate(s) shortlisted for the terms specified in the recommendation(s) of this report.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – none.

Financial implications - See Resource Implications.

Resource implications - Whilst these three appointments will not, in and of themselves, demonstrate a considerable resource demand – the City Corporation is now responsible for over 180 External Members in addition to its 125 elected Councillors. There is a considerable resource implication of this decision in the aggregate. Notable implications being: demand on the Governance and Member Services Team who are currently responsible for supporting the recruitment of and then the induction of the individuals (who may have limited to know prior knowledge of the organisation or how its decision-making processes work); demand on IT Support services, who will be expected to ensure the new External Members have access to their dedicated COLC accounts (in line with the Data Protection Policy). There may be additional costs to sub-committee catering (e.g. committee lunches); and possible printing costs, just to capture some of the wider context of membership demands. Due to concerns over the pressure on existing resource to properly support all our Members, a further report is being produced for consideration by Policy & Resources. Despite this, as no policy decision has been taken at this time in relation to external Member recruitment, and the interviews have already been conducted, it is not considered necessary nor productive to cease this particular appointment campaign.

Legal implications – External appointments shall have no voting rights.

Risk implications – none.

Equalities implications – none.

Climate implications – none.

Security implications - External representatives are required to sign up to the Corporation's Code of Conduct.

Conclusion

10. This report recommends the appointment of the shortlisted candidates to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee as non-voting external representatives for the specified terms.

Blair Stringman

Governance Officer, Town Clerk's Department.

E: Blair.Stringman@CityofLondon.gov.uk