

Item No. 13.	Classification: Open	Date: 23 November 2010	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Nomination to Adoption Panel and Appointments to Groundwork Borough Steering Group 2010-11	
Ward(s) or groups affected:			
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet agrees to nominate a new councillor representative to the Adoption Panel for the remainder of the 2010-11 year in line with paragraph 13 of the report.
2. That Councillor Toby Eckersley be appointed as the Conservative group representative on the Groundwork Borough Steering Group.
3. That Councillor Barrie Hargrove be confirmed as an additional representative on the Groundwork Borough Steering Group.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The cabinet considered nominations to panels, boards, forums and outside bodies for the 2010/11 year at its meeting on 15 June 2010. The cabinet agreed the nomination of Councillor Patrick Diamond as the councillor representative on the Adoption Panel and agreed Labour and Liberal Democrat group nominations to the Groundwork Borough Steering Group. The Conservative group position was not filled at that meeting as no nomination had been put forward.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption Panel

5. Councillor Patrick Diamond, the nominated member has indicated that he is no longer able to sit on the panel due to other commitments. Another member is therefore sought.
6. All Adoption Panels are required by the Adoption Regulations to have a council member sitting on the panel.
7. The task of the panel is to make recommendations as to the suitability of people to:
 - be adopters
 - be matched with a particular child for adoption
8. The panel also makes recommendations as to the suitability of children to have adoption as their permanent care plan.
9. Panel members are required to attend 8 out of the 12 panel meetings a year.
10. Panel members, including councillor members are required to have a clear Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check before observing a panel, which is a prerequisite to undertaking full panel duties.

11. Prior to attending panels all members must complete an application form, provide referees and once appointed be appraised annually as to their panel understanding and panel contribution.
12. A training day and a panel induction is provided after the CRB has cleared. Panel members are provided with a panel pack which includes a variety of subject material, expectations and procedures.
13. The cabinet is being asked to nominate a panel member for the remainder of the 2010/11 year. Nominated panel members are not able to actively participate in the adoption panel process until they have cleared the CRB check and completed training. In the interests of continued council member participation, it is recommended that the nominated councillor remain as the council member until any newly nominated councillor as part of the council's annual nominations process has completed the CRB and training process.

Groundwork Borough Steering Group

14. The Groundwork Borough Steering Group, oversees the Groundwork's activities in Southwark. There has traditionally been 3 representatives on the Groundwork Southwark, one from each political group. However the cabinet member for environment, transport and recycling has expressed an interest in being on the borough steering group. The Groundwork organisation has indicated that the local authority representation on the borough steering group need not be limited to 3 councillor representatives.
15. The Conservative group position is currently vacant, however the group wish to put forward Councillor Toby Eckersley as the Conservative group representative.
16. A representative from the Groundwork Borough Steering Group, sits on the Groundwork South London Sub-Regional Committee which collectively oversees Groundwork's activities across South London. The current Southwark nominated member is Councillor Mark Glover.

Community impact statement

17. There are no specific community impact issues arising from the recommendations.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Terms of Reference / Constitutions of the boards and forums	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Everton Roberts Constitutional Team 020 7525 7221

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 November 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Strategic Director of Children's Services	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		12 November 2010