



CHAIR OF HR COMMITTEE

Tower Hamlets Town Hall
1st Floor, Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Private & Confidential

Sent via email:

eric.pickles@communities.gsi.gov.uk
paul.rowsell@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Email: clare.harrisson@towerhamlets.gov.uk
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

9th April 2015

Dear Secretary of State/Paul Rowsell

I am writing as Chair of the Council's Human Resources Committee in response to the proposed Directions set out in your letter dated 25th March to Stephen Halsey.

You will be aware that the Council resolved in September 2014 to fill the vacancy of Chief Executive and had tasked the HR Committee with leading the recruitment process. However this process was stayed on 11th December 2014 following your letter dated 10th December 2014, where a request was made to pause. There have been a number of conversations with the Commissioners since their appointment, at which I have made clear the willingness of the HR committee to work with the commissioners to fill the role. The only reason we have not progressed the appointment to date is because we have been awaiting the outcome of discussions between the political groups and the Commissioners before re-commencing recruitment to the premier officer position.

We have previously expressed our support for the original Council Motion which called for a stand-alone post to take responsibility for the officer leadership of Tower Hamlets Council.

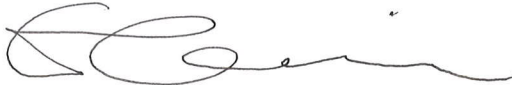
The HR committee is delegated the responsibility of overseeing the recruitment of senior officers, and following receipt of your new confirmed Directions we will seek to work with the Commissioners to move the process forward as soon as possible. We would expect to work with them regarding the duties of the premier post and would seek discussion with the Commissioners, the Mayor and Group Leaders about the nature of the role and appropriate delegations. Given the immense challenges faced by the Council going forward there is an urgency to getting clear direction and an appointment as soon as possible. Given this urgency I welcome the suggested role of the Commissioners in seeking to break through any delays that might arise from any lack of consensus on the delegations needed.

The proposed direction is welcomed and goes a good way to moving forward the process agreed by Council in September 2014. We welcome the proposed direction that appointment to the post should be made following a full and open recruitment process. Therefore we will work closely with the Commissioners within the framework of the Direction ensuring that the process is robust, in line with our constitution, and

demonstrates the good practice of the Council's Appointment procedures. I believe that the recruitment process should be modelled on the successful processes through which we recently recruited the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers. Full cross party mayoral and councillor engagement in shortlisting and Appointment Panels remains vital.

Please rest assured that the HR Committee are committed to working with the Commissioners in order to achieve an effective implementation of the proposed new direction.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Clare Harrisson
Chair, HR Committee
London Borough of Tower Hamlets



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**