PRIDE IN PLACE
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Newham London

Little Ilford Neighbourhood Board Independent Chair

We want the appointment of the Independent Chair to be fair, transparent and inclusive.The Chair plays a vital role in supporting the Little Ilford Neighbourhood Board, bringing people together, guiding discussions and helping ensure local people have a meaningful role in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.

This document explains the role, responsibilities, appointment process and governance arrangements for the Independent Chair.

Become the Independant Chair

Little Ilford has been selected for the Government's Pride in Place programme and could receive up to £20 million of investment over the next 10 years to support local priorities and improve the neighbourhood.

We are looking for an Independent Chair to lead the Little Ilford Neighbourhood Board and help guide this important programme.

The Chair will play a key role in bringing people together, ensuring meetings are inclusive and effective, supporting fair decision-making and helping create a shared vision for the future of Little Ilford.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Have a strong connection to Little Ilford.
- Support the aims of the Pride in Place programme.
- Commit time to Chair responsibilities.
- Agree to the Code of Conduct.
- Be able to act independently and impartially.

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from people with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

You may apply if you:

- Live, work, study or volunteer in Little Ilford.
- Have experience leading organisations, partnerships or community groups.
- Have experience chairing meetings, coordinating stakeholders or facilitating discussions.
- Have experience managing budgets, projects or programmes.
- Work within the public, private, education, faith or voluntary sectors.
- Have experience bringing together people with different viewpoints and interests.

You do not need previous regeneration experience to apply.

Please note:
Current employees of the London Borough of Newham are not eligible to apply for either the Independent Chair or Neighbourhood Board positions.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for someone who:

- Can act independently and fairly.
- Has strong communication and facilitation skills.
- Can build trust and bring people together.
- Is comfortable leading meetings and managing differing viewpoints.
- Has experience of leadership, governance, project delivery, budget management or partnership working.
- Is passionate about helping Little Ilford thrive.

Time commitment

The Chair is expected to commit approximately 4–8 hours minimum per month, including:

- Chairing Board meetings.
- Reading and preparing for meetings.
- Attending occasional workshops and community events.
- Supporting Board development and governance.

Length of appointment

The Independent Chair will be appointed for up to four years.

Applicants should be able to commit to the role for a minimum of two years to provide continuity and stability during the delivery of the programme.

Why apply?

This is your opportunity to:

- Help shape up to £20 million of investment.
- Support local people to influence decisions.
- Build stronger relationships across the community.
- Help create a shared vision for Little Ilford.
- Leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

What questions are asked on the application form?

To help us better understand your experience and suitability, these are the questions we ask on the application form.

Contact Details

- First Name
- Last Name
- Contact Number
- Email address

Short answer responses

Q1. Tell us about your connection to Little Ilford.
You may wish to describe how you are connected to the area, how long you have been involved in the community, what you value about Little Ilford and why you would like to play a role in shaping its future. Maximum 300 words.

Q2. Why would you like to join the Neighbourhood Board?
Please tell us why this opportunity interests you, what you would like to contribute and why local people should have a role in shaping the future of Little Ilford. Maximum 300 words.

Q3. Why would you like to become the Independent Chair of the Little Ilford Neighbourhood Board?

You might wish to tell us why this opportunity interests you, what you would like to contribute, why local people should have a role in shaping the future of Little Ilford. Maximum 300 words

Q4. What skills, knowledge or experience would you bring?
Please tell us about any experience you have of bringing people together, facilitating discussions, leading groups or helping people reach decisions. This may come from community activities, voluntary work, employment, education, faith groups or other experiences.

We are interested in understanding your approach to leadership and collaboration rather than formal qualifications or job titles.

No previous Board experience is required. Maximum 500 Words.

Q5. How do you anticipate bringing people together from different backgrounds, experiences and viewpoints?

Examples might include community involvement, volunteering, working with people, lived experience, professional skills, local knowledge. No previous Board experience is required. 300 word maximum.

Q6. Please upload your CV with references

Q7. Type of Application
Please consider my application for:
A. Chair only
B. Chair. If not chose to be Chair, then consider this application to join the Board.

Q8. Declaration of Interests
Please provide details of any roles, member-ships, employment, directorships, trusteeships, elected positions or other interests that could be relevant to your role as Independent Chair.

Q9. Availability
We ask you to confirm that you are able to commit approximately 4–8 hours per month, including attendance at Board meetings, induction sessions, occasional workshops and community events, and participation in the recruitment and appointment of Board members

Q10. Photo Consent
I consent to my photograph being taken and used in promotional, publicity, and communications materials relating to this project by the London Borough of Newham, Urban Symbiotics, and the MHCLG Pride in Place programme in connection with my role on the Board..

Evaluation process

We want the application process to be fair, transparent and inclusive.

Once applications close, we will:

Review your application and responses to the application questions.

- Assess your experience, skills and suitability for the role.
- Carry out due diligence and conflict of interest checks where appropriate.
- Invite shortlisted applicants to attend an interview with the Selection Panel.
- Undertake a final panel review involving Newham Council, the Local MP and independent advisors Urban Symbiotics.
- Confirm the appointment and notify all applicants of the outcome.

Our aim is to appoint an Independent Chair who can provide strong community leadership, support inclusive decision-making and help the Neighbourhood Board work effectively on behalf of the wider Little Ilford community.

What are we looking for?

Applications will be assessed against:

- Leadership and governance experience.
- Communication and facilitation skills.
- Ability to work with a range of people and perspectives.
- Independence and impartiality.
- Commitment to inclusion and community participation.
- Connection to Little Ilford and the aims of the Pride in Place programme.

How applications are scored

Applications will be assessed against the requirements of the role using the following scoring system:

Evaluation Criteria	Score
Outstanding response with strong examples and a clear demonstration of the qualities, skills or experience sought for the role.	5
Strong response with relevant examples and good evidence of suitability for the role.	4
Good response that demonstrates the key requirements of the role.	3
Some relevant information provided, although further detail or examples would strengthen the application.	2
Limited evidence provided and the application does not yet demonstrate the requirements of the role.	1
The question has not been answered or there is insufficient information provided to assess the criterion.	0

There is no expectation that applicants have previous regeneration experience. We are interested in your leadership experience, communication and facilitation skills, ability to bring people together, commitment to inclusion and your connection to Little Ilford.

Due diligence and conflicts of interest

Applicants will be asked to declare any relevant employment, business, voluntary, political or financial interests that may relate to the work of the Board.

Newham Council may also undertake proportionate checks using publicly available information to identify any significant governance concerns, reputational risks or serious conflicts of interest.

Any identified interests or concerns will be considered by the Selection Panel and, where appropriate, managed through the Board's governance arrangements and Register of Interests.

Our aim is to ensure that the Board operates openly, transparently and in the best interests of the wider Little Ilford community.

Financial support

We want to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to take part in the Pride in Place programme, regardless of their personal circumstances.

The Independent Chair and Neighbourhood Board Member roles are voluntary community leadership positions. To recognise the time and commitment involved, participants will receive payments for attending Board meetings, workshops and other agreed Pride in Place activities at the London Living Wage rate.

Representation and membership

The Neighbourhood Board should reflect the diversity of Little Ilford, including different ages, genders, ethnicities, faiths, cultures, housing tenures, abilities and life experiences.
At least 50% of voting Board members must live within the agreed Little Ilford Pride in Place boundary.

Applications are welcomed from people who live, work, study, volunteer, run businesses or have a strong connection to Little Ilford.

The aim is not to create quotas, but to establish a Board that is capable, credible and broadly representative of the people and communities that make up Little Ilford.

Following the assessment process, the Selection Panel will review the overall make-up of the Board to ensure that different perspectives and experiences are represented.

Where there are significant gaps in representation, the Panel may:

- Consider appointing alternative applicants with comparable scores.
- Undertake additional targeted recruitment activity.
- Use reserve lists or future vacancies to improve representation.

Terms Of Reference

Our purpose

The Little Ilford Neighbourhood Board exists to help guide the Pride in Place programme and ensure local people have a meaningful role in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.

The Board will work together to identify priorities, guide investment and help create a shared vision for Little Ilford.

How decisions are made

The Board will always aim to make decisions through discussion, collaboration and agreement wherever possible.

We recognise that people will sometimes have different views and experiences. The Board's role is to listen, learn from one another and work towards solutions that benefit the wider community.

Board meetings

To make decisions, meetings must include:

- The Chair (or an agreed deputy).
- At least half of the Board Members.

This helps ensure decisions are made fairly and with a broad range of voices represented.

Serving the community

Board Members are there to represent the interests of Little Ilford as a whole.

Members are encouraged to listen to local people, consider different perspectives and help ensure that decisions reflect the needs of the wider community.

Being open and transparent

To maintain trust and transparency, all Board Members will be asked to declare any personal, professional, financial, political or organisational interests that may be relevant to the work of the Board.

These interests will be recorded and managed appropriately.

Getting more people involved

The Board is only one part of the Pride in Place programme. We want as many people as possible to have opportunities to get involved.

The Board may establish:

- Working Groups focused on specific topics or projects.
- Short-term Task and Finish Groups.
- Youth Groups and young people's activities.
- A Community Sounding Board to test ideas and gather feedback.
- Lived experience and resident panels.
- Other opportunities for local people to contribute as the programme develops.

A board that reflects Little Ilford

We are committed to creating a Board that reflects the diversity, experiences and communities of Little Ilford.

Appointments will be based on a combination of skills, experience, lived experience, local knowledge and the need for balanced representation across the neighbourhood.

There is no single characteristic or background that guarantees appointment.

Reviewing and improving the board

The Little Ilford Neighbourhood Board is a new community-led leadership group and we recognise that it may need to evolve over time.

To ensure the Board remains effective, inclusive and representative of the wider community, we will review its arrangements within the first six months of operation.

This review may consider:

- The overall make-up of the Board.
- How different communities and perspectives are represented.
- The Board's governance and decision-making arrangements.
- The effectiveness of any working groups or sub-groups.
- Opportunities for wider community participation and involvement.

The aim is to ensure that the Board continues to reflect the needs, experiences and aspirations of the people of Little Ilford.

Any proposed changes will be discussed with the Neighbourhood Board, Newham Council, the Local MP and the wider community before being implemented.

Code of Conduct

Every board member agrees to:

Respect

Treat all participants with dignity and respect, even where opinions differ.

Inclusion

Support an environment where everyone feels welcome, valued and able to contribute.

Integrity

Act honestly and in the interests of the wider community.

Openness

Be willing to listen, learn and consider different perspectives.

Accountability

Take responsibility for actions and decisions.

Transparency

Declare interests and be open about potential conflicts.

Community Leadership

Act in the interests of Little Ilford as a whole rather than advancing personal, organisational or political interests.

Confidentiality

Respect confidential information where appropriate.

Positive Participation

Contribute constructively and avoid disruptive, discriminatory or abusive behaviour.

Nolan Principles

Members will uphold:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

Key dates

Chair application deadline: 10th July
Board member application deadline: 17th July
Boundary extension response deadline: 17th July

Potential Chair interview dates: w/c 20th July or 22nd and 24th July (if you're unable to make these dates please let us know but it shouldn't prejudice application)

Chair selection: w/c 13th or 20th July

Board member announcement: end of August.

Thank you for your interest in becoming the Independent Chair for the Little Ilford Neighbourhood Board.

We wish you the best of luck with your application.

Chair application deadline: 10th July, 2026

APPLY NOW VIA THIS LINK