

## WMCA Board

<b>Date</b>	11 January 2019
<b>Report title</b>	Appointment of Interim s151 Officer
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Finance & Investments - Councillor Bob Sleigh
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority tel: (0121) 214 7200 email: deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Tim Martin, Head of Governance tel: (0121) 214 7435 email: tim.martin@wmca.org.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Programme Board - 21 December 2018

**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The WMCA Board is recommended to:**

- (1) Appoint Linda Horne as Interim s151 Officer and Interim Director of Finance and Carl Pearson as Deputy Interim s151 Officer with effect from 14 December 2018.

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The WMCA's existing s151 Officer has recently taken up employment with a different organisation, creating a vacancy with this statutory role. It is therefore necessary for the WMCA Board to appoint an Interim (and Deputy Interim) s151 Officer to discharge the responsibilities of the post until such time as a permanent replacement is recruited.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Sean Pearce had been the WMCA's s151 Officer since being appointed to the role in October 2017. Following his recent appointment with another organisation, the WMCA Board is required to appoint another officer to this statutory role. The responsibilities of the s151 Officer include:

- being a qualified member of a recognised accountancy body;
- ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements for accounting and internal audit (including supporting records and all systems of internal checks and control);
- managing the financial affairs of the Authority in all its dealings and transactions, and in so doing securing the proper stewardship of the Authority's responsibilities;
- reporting to the WMCA Board, the External Auditor and all members of the Authority if there is, or is likely to be, any item of unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget;
- owing a personal duty of care to local tax payers in managing the WMCA's resources on their behalf.

- 2.2 In discharging these responsibilities, the s151 Officer must balance the needs and interests of both current and future taxpayers.

- 2.3 The WMCA is currently recruiting a new Director of Finance, who will become the s151 Officer. But until that appointee commences work, it is proposed that Linda Horne, the Head of Finance & Business Planning and current Deputy s151 Officer, be appointed as Interim s151 Officer and Interim Director of Finance. Concurrently, Carl Pearson, Financial Strategy Manager (Capital & Treasury), will be appointed Interim Deputy s151 Officer.

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report as the posts are not remunerated, in themselves, over and above the existing salary paid for the individual's substantive post within the WMCA.

## **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of the contents of this report, other than a legal requirement for the WMCA to appoint individuals to the positions identified.

## **5. Equalities Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the contents of this report.

**6. Inclusive Growth Implications**

6.1 There are no direct inclusive growth implications arising out of the contents of this report.

**7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8. Other Implications**

8.1 None identified.

**9. Schedule of Background Papers**

Report to WMCA Board on 13 October 2017.