



West Midlands
Combined Authority

WMCA Board

Date	18 September 2020
Report title	Re-appointment of Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee Chair for a Further 12 Months
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Report has been considered by	Senior Leadership Team Programme Board

Recommendations for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Appoint David Lane as the independent member and chair of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee for a further 12 month period (to include the approval of the WMCA's 2020/21 annual accounts).
- (2) Agree that the Head of Governance undertake a recruitment exercise to ensure that a new independent member can be appointed for a four-year term effective from September 2021.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To re-appoint David Lane as Chair of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee (ARAC) for a further 12 month period, to include the approval of the WMCA's 2020/21 annual accounts.

2. Background

- 2.1 The WMCA's constitution requires that the membership of ARAC includes at least one 'independent person' (defined as someone who for the preceding five years has not been a member or officer of the WMCA, nor is a relative or close friend of any such person). The constitution also requires that the chair of ARAC should be the (or one of the) independent person(s).
- 2.2 David Lane was appointed independent member and chair of ARAC by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 28 October 2016 for a period of four years. His appointment as ARAC chair was to have expired next month.
- 2.3 Given the uncertainties of the current year, including the postponement of the Mayoral elections until May 2021 and the difficulties in recruiting a new chair of ARAC during the wider restrictions, David Lane was approached to continue in post for a further 12 months. This would provide continuity through to the end of the Mayoral term of office and provide confidence that the audit and assurance function was being overseen by individuals experienced in the governance of the WMCA. A key responsibility of ARAC is to approve the WMCA's annual accounts and extending the appointment for a further 12 months would enable David Lane to see the current financial year through to its conclusion.
- 2.4 Although David Lane has indicated that he would not wish to be considered for a new four-year appointment, he would be prepared to remain in post for a further 12 months were that to be the wish of the WMCA Board.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of the recommendations within this report. The position of independent member/chair is unremunerated, except for the reimbursement of travel expenses to and from meetings.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The WMCA's constitution requires ARAC to have at least one independent member, who will also chair the committee. David Lane's appointment expires on 28 October 2020 and, as there are no other independent members sitting on the committee, it would be necessary to appoint a replacement independent member.

5. Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. The advertising and recruitment process referred to at recommendation (2) above will be designed with the objective of securing a wide and diverse field of applicants.

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct inclusive growth implications arising out of the recommendations within this report.

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 7.1 ARAC contains members from constituent and non-constituent authorities, along with local enterprise partnership representatives. There are no geographical requirements placed upon any successfully appointed independent member.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1 There are no other significant implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

9. Schedule of Background Papers

Report to WMCA Board - 28 October 2016