

WMCA Board

Date	23 July 2021
Report title	Appointment of Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee Chair
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@tfwm.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Satish Mistry, Interim Head of Governance, Clerk and Monitoring Officer email: satish.mistry@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Strategic Leadership Team - 30 June 2021 Programme Board

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Make an appointment to the Chair of Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee for a four year period, to expire in June 2025.
- (2) Thanks David Lane for undertaking the role of Chair of the committee for the past five years.

1. Purpose

To appoint the Chair of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee (ARAC) for the next four years.

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 has undertaken this role since October 2016, initially for a four year period but with a year's extension in September 2020 due to the uncertainties of recruiting during the COVID-19 pandemic. His appointment will now expire on 18 September 2021.

2.3 The position of Chair was recently advertised and a number of applications have been received for the position. It is intended to schedule interviews for suitably qualified candidates ahead of the WMCA Board involving the committee's Vice-Chair, Interim Director of Law & Governance and the Director of Finance.

2.4 It is intended that the interview panel's recommendation for the position of Chair will be circulated to the members of the WMCA Board ahead of the meeting, along with a summary of the skills and attributes that the candidate will bring to the post.

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 18 September 2021 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

5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. The advertising and recruitment process referred to 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

Reports to WMCA Board - 28 October 2016 and 18 September 2020