



## WMCA Board Meeting

<b>Date</b>	28 October 2016
<b>Report title</b>	Appointment of Independent Audit and Standards Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Lead</b>	Councillor Bob Sleigh - Chair of the WMCA
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Keith Ireland, Clerk to the Combined Authority Email: keith.ireland@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: (01902) 554500
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Dan Essex, Governance Services Manager Email: danessex@centro.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7505
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Verbal update to Audit and Standards Committee - 21 October 2016

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

#### **The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:**

1. Approve the appointment of David Lane as Chair of the Combined Authority's Audit and Standards Committee for a four year period.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 Following a competitive interview process, the Combined Authority is asked to agree the appointment of David Lane to be Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 At its AGM on 29 June, the Combined Authority appointed an Audit and Standards Committee with the purpose of “providing assurance that the finances, processes and risks of the Combined Authority were managed to a high standard of openness, integrity and accountability”. Within its terms of reference, it was agreed that the Chair of the committee would be an independent person who was neither an elected member, nor officer, of any constituent council. Until such time as an appointment was made, the business of the committee was chaired by its Vice-Chair, Councillor Craig Collingswood.

2.2 The first meeting of the committee was held on 8 July, and members agreed a recruitment process for the appointment of a chair. The position was advertised on the Combined Authority’s and constituent/non-constituent member councils’ websites, and a press release was issued to local media and specialist press outlets.

2.3 Three applications were received for the position, and an interview panel was convened on 11 October, comprising Councillor Craig Collingswood, and the Combined Authority’s Corporate Services Director, Governance Services Manager and HR Business Manager.

2.4 All three candidates gave a strong account of themselves, but the panel’s unanimous decision was that David Lane should be appointed for a four-year term. David Lane has had a strong track record leading and influencing multi-disciplinary teams within both public and private sector organisations, is a strong and persuasive advocate of the need for good governance, and has considerable experience leading complex multidisciplinary teams. In recent years, his roles have included:

- Interim Programme Director - DEFRA/Rural Payments Agency
- Chief Executive and Transition Director - NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency
- Director of Operational Risk - BBC

2.5 David Lane has indicated that he is very happy to take up this appointment, subject to its ratification by the Combined Authority at this meeting. He has indicated an eagerness to help in the development of risk-based work programme for the committee, and to hold a series of early meetings with the Chief Executive, Chair and other leading members of the Combined Authority, as appropriate.

## **3.0 Financial implications**

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

## **4.0 Legal implications**

4.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 The recruitment process was overseen by the Combined Authority's HR Business Manager so as to ensure that it complied with current WMCA recruitment policies.