



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Board Meeting

Date	17 March 2017
Report title	Appointment of Combined Authority Returning Officer
Cabinet Member Portfolio Lead	Councillor Bob Sleight – Chair of the WMCA
Accountable Chief Executive	Keith Ireland, Managing Director, City of Wolverhampton, Monitoring Officer and Clerk, WMCA. Email: keith.ireland@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: 01902554500
Accountable Employee	Rob Connelly, Elections Manager, Birmingham City Council Email: Robert-connelly@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 0121 303 2443
Report to be/has been considered by	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

1. Annul the decision to appoint the Returning Officer of Birmingham as the West Midlands Combined Authority Returning Officer.
2. Appoint the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority as the West Midlands Combined Authority Returning Officer.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to enable the West Midlands Combined Authority to appoint a Combined Authority Returning Officer in respect of the Combined Authority Mayoral election on 4 May 2017.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 provides that each Combined Authority must appoint one of its officers or one of the officers of a constituent council to be the Combined Authority Returning Officer (CARO). This will normally be the Returning Officer for that area.
- 2.2 The CARO will have overall responsibility for the election of the Mayor and may, for example, give to a returning officer of a constituent member directions relating to the conduct of the election. In addition, the CARO will be responsible for accepting nominations and coordinating the regional result.
- 2.3 At the 20 January 2017 Board meeting a decision was taken to appoint the Returning Officer of Birmingham City Council as the West Midlands Combined Authority Returning Officer (designate). However, due to the recent changes in the senior management positions at Birmingham City Council it is recommended that this decision is annulled and an alternative Returning Officer is appointed.
- 2.4 It is recommended therefore, that with the substantial elections experience held, the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority is appointed as the West Midlands Combined Authority Returning Officer.

3.0 Wider WMCA Implications

- 3.1 There are no foreseen wider implications for the WMCA or for Non-Constituent areas.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The CARO will have responsibility for poll and any directions made by the CARO may have implications on the cost of delivering the election.

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The Combined Authority will be in breach of its statutory duty if a CARO is not appointed and it will not be possible for the election to be held.

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 No equality implications are foreseen.

7.0 Appendices

- 7.1 None