



## ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED IF THE CHAIR DECIDES IT IS URGENT

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| <b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND<br/>PETERBOROUGH COMBINED<br/>AUTHORITY BOARD</b> | <b>AGENDA ITEM No: 4.1</b> |
| <b>26 JULY 2017</b>   | <b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>       |

### **APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

#### **1.0 URGENCY**

- 1.1 Under chapter 5 paragraph 4.5, the Chair may determine that an item of business that has not been open to prior public inspection should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Any urgent items shall comply with Transparency Rules, Forward Plan and Key Decisions in chapter 6 of the Constitution.
- 1.2 The reason for urgency is that the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) for the Combined Authority has resigned. The Combined Authority is statutorily required to have in post a Chief Finance Officer appointed under Section 151 of the Local Governance Act 1972. The reason for urgency will be set out in the minutes.

#### **2.0 PURPOSE**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for the Combined Authority to agree to appoint an interim statutory Chief Finance Officer for the Combined Authority from amongst the constituent Council's Chief Finance Officers.

| <b><u>DECISION REQUIRED</u></b>   |   |
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| <b>Lead Member:</b>   | <b>Mayor</b>  |
| <b>Lead Officer:</b>  | <b>Martin Whiteley, Chief Executive</b>   |
| <b>Forward Plan Ref:</b> N/A  | <b>Key Decision: No</b>   |
| <p>It is recommended that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Board agrees to appoint a Chief Finance Officer from amongst the constituent Councils Chief Finance Officers; and</li> <li>(b) to report the named appointee to the September meeting of the Board.</li> </ul> | <p>Voting arrangements</p> <p>Simple majority of the Members, including the LEP</p> |

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Chapter 4 paragraph 1.5 of the Constitution states that the appointment of statutory officers is reserved to the Board. The Chief Finance Officer is a statutory Officer of the Combined Authority and a 'proper officer' for this purpose.
- 3.2 The Board at its meeting on 20 March 2017 appointed John Harrison from Peterborough City Council as its Interim Chief Finance Officer on a 2 day a week basis.
- 3.3 On 26 June, the Board was advised that as the work of the Combined Authority develops apace there was a need to resource this role on a full time basis. It was agreed that a full time interim S151 be sourced as soon as possible pending a permanent appointment, and this is being progressed. The Board was advised that Mr Harrison had agreed to continue to provide support under the current arrangements until such time as the full time interim appointment was made.
- 3.4 The Combined Authority has been advised by Peterborough City Council that Mr Harrison has resigned from the Council to pursue other opportunities. As a result a new appointment to the post of an interim Chief Finance Officer is required immediately.
- 3.5 There has been insufficient time to consult constituent Councils on whether their Chief Finance Officer can take on this role on a 2 day a week basis until a full time interim Chief Finance Officer is sourced. It is therefore recommended that the Board agrees that a Chief Finance Officer is appointed from one of the constituent Councils as soon as possible and that the name of the Chief Finance Officer is reported to the September meeting of the Board.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The funding for the role is set out within existing budgets.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 It is also a legal requirement under the 1972 Local Government Act that the Combined Authority appoints a Chief Finance Officer (known as the s151 officer). The role of Chief Finance Officer is a statutory requirement.

#### **6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 APPENDICES**

None

| <b><u>Source Documents</u></b>   | <b><u>Location</u></b>  |
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| Constitution<br>Local Government Act 1972<br>Local Government and Housing Act 1989 | Combined Authority website<br><br>Legislation can be found on Government websites |