



<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No: 1.7</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2019</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## **APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S73)**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To request that the Board appoint Noel O'Neill as interim s73 Chief Finance Officer for the Combined Authority.

<b><u>DECISION REQUIRED</u></b>	
<b>Lead Member:</b>	<b>Cllr Steve Count, Portfolio Holder Investment and Finance</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Patrick Arran, Legal Counsel and Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref: Not applicable</b>	<b>Key Decision: No</b>
The Combined Authority Board is recommended to appoint Noel O'Neill as interim s73 Chief Finance Officer to the Combined Authority.	<b>Voting arrangements</b>  Simple majority of all Members

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The concept of a Chief Finance Officer was established by s.151 Local Government Act 1972. (Hence the term Section 151 Officer). The responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer for the administration of the financial affairs of the Authority are set out in s.114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- 2.2 New authorities, such as the Combined Authority are covered by the Local Government Act 1985. Section 73 of the Act provides that "*each new authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and shall secure that one of its officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.*" The Combined Authority is a new authority for the purposes of the Act.

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The previous interim s73 Chief Finance Officer left the Authority on the 30th of November 2018 and his employment ended on the 31st of December 2018. Noel O'Neill, the Deputy Chief Finance Officer has been fulfilling the statutory duties in the meantime. Mr O'Neill is a qualified accountant which is a requirement for the role.
- 2.5 The Authority is currently recruiting a permanent Chief Finance Officer, but there is a statutory requirement for the Authority to designate one of its officers as Chief Finance Officer in the meantime.
- 2.6 Mr O'Neill has been deputy Chief Finance Officer since June 2018 and is the obvious candidate to be designated as Chief Finance Officer on an interim basis.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The costs of the appointment will be contained within the 2018/19 forecast outturn figure for staffing costs, as approved by the Board on 28 November 2018, and within the draft Combined Authority budget for 2019/20.

### **4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no additional legal implications to those mentioned in the report.

### **5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no equalities or other implications arising from this report.

### **6.0 APPENDICES**

- 6.1 None

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	Not applicable