

**COMBINED AUTHORITY MEETING**

**31 MAY 2024**

**APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 73 OFFICER**

**Report of the Head of Human Resources**

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**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 Under Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985, the Combined Authority is required to appoint an Officer to be responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs. In the Combined Authority, this role is discharged by the Director of Resources.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That the Combined Authority formally appoints Michael Russell as the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Section 73 Officer (Director of Resources).

**3.0 Background**

3.1 Following the inception of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority in December 2023, interim arrangements have been in place in relation to the statutory Officers of the Combined Authority. This has included the Interim Section 73 Officer role, which has been carried out by the Chief Finance Officer of City of York Council.

3.2 Approval was sought from the Combined Authority in January/February 2024 to embark on a recruitment process for the Director of Resources role. The appointment process was a 2 day process; day one consisted of a technical interview and stakeholder panels, including key Members and Partners from both the public and business sector.

3.3 The second day of the assessment comprised of a formal interview, led by members of the Combined Authority, with the support of the Interim Director of Resources of the Combined Authority, the Interim Head of Paid Service and the Head of HR.

3.4 The unanimous decision of the Interview Panel was to appoint Michael Russell as the Director of Resources (Section 73 Officer).

3.5 As this role is a statutory role, the Combined Authority is required to appoint a Section 73 Officer, and it is recommended that the Combined Authority

appoints Michael Russell as the Combined Authority's statutory Section 73 Officer.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 The financial implications associated with this appointment can be covered from within the existing revenue budget for 2024/25. This statutory role is included in the budget on an ongoing basis.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 Dealt with in the body of this report.

#### **6.0 Equalities Implications**

6.1 There are no additional equalities implications within this report.

#### **7.0 Environmental Implications**

7.1 There are no additional environmental implications within this report

#### **8.0 Combined Authority Areas Impacted (Council Areas/Wards/Divisions)**

8.1 York and North Yorkshire area.

#### **9.0 Recommendations**

9.1 That the Combined Authority formally appoints Michael Russell as the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Section 73 Officer (Director of Resources).

#### **10.0 Reasons For Recommendations**

10.1 The Combined Authority is required in accordance with Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985, to appoint an Officer to be responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs.

#### **11.0 Contact Details**

For further information please contact the authors of this Report.

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**Background papers - None**

**Appendices – None**