

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:** AUTHORITY ADVISERS

**REPORT OF:** MANAGING DIRECTOR

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:** AUTHORITY MEETING

**DATE:** 7 February 2019

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report notifies Members of the retirement of Mike Cooke as Chief Executive of LB Camden and Clerk to the Authority and the appointment of Jenny Rowlands as Chief Executive of LB Camden and also as Clerk to the Authority when she takes up that appointment on 1 April 2019. It notifies Members of the appointment of Jon Rowney as financial adviser to the Authority with effect from 1 January 2019. It proposes the appointment of a further adviser on employment and skills matters with the necessary change to Standing Orders to allow for this role.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Authority is recommended to:

- A. Note these appointments and the proposal to appoint an employment and skills adviser;
- B. Agree the insertion of a role for an Employment and Skills Adviser in section B Appendix 2 of Standing Orders as set out in section 3 of this report;
- C. Record the Authority's thanks to Mike Cooke and Mike O'Donnell for their contributions to the Authority as Clerk and Financial Adviser respectively.

**SIGNED:**



**Managing Director**

**DATE:** 28 January 2019

## **1. CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

- 1.1. The Clerk of the Authority is a statutory role, acting as Head of Paid Service for the Authority. Among other powers exercised by the Clerk is the power to act on any matter which in his or her opinion does not admit of delay. This power must be exercised in consultation with the Chair (or, where unable to act, the vice-chairs) and wherever possible the leaders of the Opposition parties. When no members are appointed (for example after elections but prior to appointments to the Authority) he/she has delegated authority to take decisions which in his or her opinion cannot be delayed until the Authority meets.
- 1.2. The Clerk to the Authority also carries out important practical roles: challenging and supporting the Authority's officers in the delivery of the Authority's duties, supervising the advice provided for Authority meetings and working with chief executives of all boroughs to ensure there is good dialogue and information sharing about the Authority's work at that level.
- 1.3. Mike Cooke, as chief executive of the London Borough of Camden has been Clerk since February 2012 but is retiring in March. The London Borough of Camden has appointed Jenny Rowlands as the new chief executive with effect from 1 April 2019, moving from her current role in the Council as Executive Director, Supporting Communities. Under the Statement of Arrangements between NLWA and LB Camden, LB Camden is required to provide a suitable officer as the Clerk to the Authority. The appointment of Jenny as Chief Executive and therefore as Clerk to the Authority means that there would be no requirement for interim clerk arrangements to fill any gap.
- 1.4. Members are therefore recommended to note the appointment of Jenny Rowlands to the position of Clerk to the Authority and to thank Mike Cooke for his excellent service to the Authority.

## **2. FINANCIAL ADVISER TO THE AUTHORITY**

- 2.1. The Financial Adviser to the Authority is a statutory role. He/she acts as the person responsible for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs in accordance with Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985 (officer responsible for administration of financial affairs, and the equivalent of a section 151 officer in the boroughs), the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (responsibility for internal controls), Section 114 of the Local Government Act 1988 and Sections 25 to 27 Of the Local Government Act 2003 (chief financial officer duties for precepting authorities and certain authorities in London)
- 2.2. Mike O'Donnell has served in this role since late 2005, first as LB Camden's Director of Finance and then as its Executive Director, Corporate Services. In 2018 Mike was succeeded in the Camden Executive Director role by Jon Rowney, but remained employed by the Council to lead special projects. The Authority benefitted from continuity, with Mike retaining the Financial Adviser role. However, he left Camden employment at the end of 2018. Jon Rowney has therefore been appointed as the Authority's financial adviser with effect from 1 January 2019. In addition to Jon's personal skills and experience, as the Authority makes use of Camden's financial systems, there is a strong logic in the Financial Adviser being provided by LB Camden, and this is contained in the obligations on LB Camden in

the Statement of Arrangements with NLWA. It is recommended that Members' record, with appreciation, Mike O'Donnell's service to the Authority.

### **3. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS ADVISER**

3.1. The Authority has previously had property and planning advisers. These were not statutory roles but gave the Authority access to additional expertise and advice when those issues were particularly crucial to the Authority's activities. The role of planning adviser no longer exists, following a decision to remove the role from Standing Orders, and the role of property adviser is not currently filled. Looking to the near future, we know that a particularly significant requirement for the Authority will be to ensure that the North London Heat and Power Project is managed in a way which unleashes opportunities for skills development, local employment opportunities and which helps to promote diversity and inclusion in the construction and operational workforce.

3.2. While Authority Officers are developing strategies covering these points, the team would benefit from the committed input of an adviser from a constituent borough who would assist and in making sure the plans are sufficiently ambitious and are carried forward to practical implementation. It is therefore proposed that Standing Orders be updated to include a vacant adviser role an employment and skills adviser role and that the Managing Director be empowered to seek out and appoint such an adviser. The headline requirements and expectations for the role would be:

3.2.1. Senior officer in constituent borough working in the field of employment and skills development;

3.2.2. Able to advise NLWA officers on development of schemes for promoting apprenticeships, training in skills, local employment opportunities;

3.2.3. Advising on diversity and inclusion in the construction and operational workforce;

3.2.4. Supporting NLWA officers in work with relevant organisations including local colleges to achieve the agreed aims with regard to work training and skills.

3.3. It is proposed to seek this adviser through an internal advertisement within the Constituent Boroughs in the first instance, with a review of the process in the event that this route does not lead to a successful candidate. It is expected that six Boroughs will be involved in this process, as the Authority will be in negotiation and discussion with LB Enfield on the provision of these benefits, in fulfilment of DCO obligation, and therefore it is likely that there would be a conflict for any officer of LB Enfield in advising NLWA.

### **4. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

4.1. The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

- 5.1. The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

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