

Report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Cabinet – 18 February 2016

EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANT CORONER

Purpose:	To extend the term of the temporary Assistant Coroner.
Policy Framework:	None.
Reason for Decision:	To comply with a statutory requirement.
Consultation:	None.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The appointment Caroline Sumeray as an Assistant Coroner be extended for a fixed period of 6 months from the 26 th March 2016 to the 25 th September 2016.
Report Author:	Patrick Arran
Finance Officer:	Mike Hawes
Legal Officer:	As above
Access to Services Officer:	Not applicable

1. Background

The Council has statutory duties in relation to the Coroner Service as provided for by the Coroner and Justice Act 2009.

2. The current Acting Senior Coroner, Mr Phillips, inherited a substantial backlog of historic cases which the Chief Coroner has asked him to conclude at the earliest opportunity.
3. On the 14th of April 2015, Cabinet agreed to appoint Ms Sumeray as Temporary Assistant Coroner for a period of 12 months. This appointment will end on the 25th March 2016.
4. Ms Sumeray has been dealing with two complex cases involving prison deaths which require juries. Cabinet will appreciate that these Inquests are

logistically very demanding and it has not been possible to arrange the Inquests before her appointment comes to an end.

5. Schedule 3 of the Coroner and Justice Act 2009 requires the authority to formally appoint an Assistant Coroner.
6. The Head of Legal & Democratic Services can confirm that all other statutory formalities have been complied with in that the appointment has been agreed by the Chief Coroner and the Lord Chancellor. The Acting Senior Coroner sought permission from the Chief Coroner to extend her temporary appointment. This permission was granted by letter dated the 29th January 2016.

7. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications related to this decision because this is a statutory formality. However, Cabinet will need to be aware that the authority must pay for any time spent by an Assistant Coroner. The agreed daily rate for an Assistant is £400.

- 7.2 Swansea and Neath Port Talbot will be responsible for paying an Assistant Coroner who deals with a historic case based on the place of death - which is the normal arrangement.

8. Legal Implications

There are no additional legal implications to those set out in the body of the report.

9. Equalities Implications

There are no equality implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is necessary.

Background Papers: – Cabinet report 14th April 2015.

Appendices: - None.