



REPORT TO: East Lothian Integration Joint Board
MEETING DATE: 26 April 2018
BY: Chief Officer
SUBJECT: Appointment of Chief Finance Officer

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report updates the East Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) on the proposals for the recruitment of the Section 95 Officer.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The IJB is asked to agree the proposals for the Section 95 Officer recruitment.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The regulations on membership of IJBs include the appointment of “the proper officer of the integration joint board appointed under section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) act 1973(1)”.
- 3.2 The IJB agreed in July 2015 that there should be a shared Section 95 Officer appointment between East Lothian and Midlothian IJBs and that this should be subject to review after two years.
- 3.3 David King was appointed to this post in October 2015. David has supported both IJBs and had held an operational role in NHS Lothian. David has now confirmed that he will retire in October 2018.
- 3.4 In line with the IJB’s decision, the current arrangement has been reviewed. The Chief Officers of East Lothian and Midlothian IJBs have held discussions with the Deputy Director of Finance for NHS Lothian and the Section 95 Officers from East Lothian and Midlothian Councils.
- 3.5 All parties agreed that the current arrangement has worked well. It has allowed the IJBs to benefit from having a single officer covering both whilst disaggregation of NHS services was progressing. It has also allowed the IJBs to benefit from in-depth financial understanding of the

complexities of the NHS budgets. Both Councils have enabled access to Council financial information.

- 3.6 However, there have been some changes to the situation. NHS disaggregation between East Lothian and Midlothian has progressed as had devolution of budgets from NHS Lothian, so there is less requirement than before to oversee these processes. At the same time, NHS Lothian is about to review the model for allocation to IJBs and implement patient level costing which will affect core and set aside budgets which will require significant input over an extended period.
- 3.7 There is less change of this type in Council arrangements, the main issue being a review of delegated budgets relating to housing which is unlikely to be material to the IJB.
- 3.8 It is still not felt that the role supporting East Lothian or Midlothian IJBs separately would require full time input to either IJB.
- 3.9 Therefore, it is proposed that the existing arrangements on a permanent or secondment basis should be the basis for filling the Section 95 Officer post when the existing post holder retires. This is an opportunity from one of the three parties (NHS Lothian, East Lothian Council, and Midlothian Council) to be Section 95 Officer for both IJBs and to have an operational remit in one of the parties.
- 3.10 The current job description will be reviewed jointly by East Lothian Council, Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian.
- 3.11 The opportunity will then be advertised within the three parties.
- 3.12 Following interviews, a recommendation for appointment will be presented to the IJB.

4 ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 The issues in this report have been discussed with the IJB's partners but do not require wider engagement.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report implement national legislation and regulations on the establishment of IJBs.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The issues in this report do not require an integrated impact assessment.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no immediate resource implications from this report. Any resource implications from the outcome of the process will be highlighted in a future report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

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