



REPORT TO: East Lothian Integration Joint Board

MEETING DATE: 16 September 2021

BY: Chief Officer

SUBJECT: Interim Appointment of Chief Finance Officer - Update

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report updates the East Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) on the proposals for the recruitment of the Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer to cover a period of maternity leave.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The IJB is asked to:
- i. Approve the appointment of David King as Interim Chief Finance Officer for the period of Claire Flanagan's maternity leave.

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 Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer appointment between East Lothian and Midlothian IJBs and that this would be subject to review. During April 2018 this arrangement was reviewed and the Chief Officers of East Lothian and Midlothian IJBs held discussions with the Deputy Director of Finance for NHS Lothian and the Section 95 Officers from East Lothian and Midlothian Councils. All parties agreed that the current arrangement has worked well. It has allowed the IJBs to benefit from having a single officer covering both. It has also allowed the IJBs to benefit from in-depth financial understanding of the complexities of the NHS budgets and both Councils financial information.
- 3.3 Claire Flanagan was appointed to the post of Chief Finance Officer in August 2018. Claire took up the role from the 1st October 2018 and has supported both IJBs and has held an operational role in NHS Lothian.

Claire is due to undertake a period of maternity leave from August 2021 for 9 months.

- 3.4 Only the IJB can appoint its own Chief Finance Officer but the Integration Scheme describes a mechanism whereby the IJB's partners (East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian) can provide the IJB with a suitable candidate.
- 3.5 NHS Lothian agreed to support the provision of an interim CFO. After an internal recruitment process was unsuccessful an external candidate was sought. It should be noted that David King had been the CFO of the IJB since its inception until his retirement in November 2018. David expressed interest in the post and given that there were no internal candidates, the Chief Officer and the CFO met with David to discuss his suitability for the role. Both the CFO and the Chief Officer agreed that David would be suitable for the post and to recommend him to the IJB
- 3.6 David will also undertake the role of the CFO for Midlothian IJB, however NHS Lothian have provided additional support to undertake the operational financial management of the HSCPs and David's role will only be that of CFO and this will be a part-time post (3 days a week). These days will be worked on a flexible basis to ensure that the IJB has CFO support as required. NHS Lothian will fund this post.

4 ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 The IJB makes its papers and reports available on the internet.
- 4.2 The issues in this report have been discussed with the IJB's partners but do not require wider engagement

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no new policies arising from this paper.
- 5.2 The recommendations in this report implement national legislation and regulations on the establishment of IJBs.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy
- 6.2 The issues in this report do not require an integrated impact assessment.

7 DIRECTIONS

7.1 There are no Directions implications arising from this paper

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 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 if required.

9 RISK

9.1 None

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

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