



**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Integration Joint Board

**MEETING DATE:** 21 September 2023

**BY:** Chief Officer

**SUBJECT:** Interim Appointment of Chief Finance Officer

---

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report informs the East Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the intention to temporarily appoint a Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer to cover the vacancy created by the departure of the current postholder, until such time as the substantive post is filled.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The IJB is asked to:
- i. Agree to the proposal to recruit, as an interim arrangement, cover for the Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer vacancy, resulting from the departure of the previous postholder;
  - ii. Delegate authority to the Chief Officer and Chair of the IJB to approve the interim appointment on the IJB's behalf after the recruitment process; and
  - iii. Note that an update on the outcome of this process will be provided at a future IJB meeting.

## **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 IJB and Midlothian IJB and that this would be subject to review.
- 3.3 During April 2018 the arrangement was reviewed and the Chief Officers of East Lothian IJB and Midlothian IJB 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 arrangement worked well. It has allowed the IJBs to benefit from

having a single officer covering duties in both organisations, allowing the respective IJBs to benefit from in-depth financial understanding of the complexities of the NHS budgets and both Councils' financial information.

- 3.4 Claire Flanagan was appointed to the post of Chief Finance Officer in August 2018 and has supported both IJBs and has held an operational role in NHS Lothian. Ms Flanagan is due to leave her East Lothian IJB and Midlothian IJB appointments to take up another post. This creates a vacancy, for which recruitment is underway.
- 3.5 In view of the importance of the Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer post, it is proposed to appoint under interim arrangements until the post is filled permanently.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 It is therefore proposed to progress with a recruitment process for fixed term interim cover of the Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer Post for both IJBs. This arrangement can be on a fixed term appointment or secondment basis during this period.
- 3.8 Given the timescales, the process for the selection of an interim candidate to cover the role of Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer for the IJBs needs to progress swiftly. The IJB is asked to delegate authority to the IJB Chief Officer and the IJB Chair on behalf of the IJB to approve this interim appointment following the recruitment process.
- 3.9 An update will be provided to the IJB at a future meeting on the outcome of this process.

## **4 ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The IJB makes its papers and reports and Teams recordings of its meetings available on the East Lothian Council website.
- 4.2 The issues in this report have been discussed with the IJB's partners. It has been agreed they 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 implications for Directions 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

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Fiona Wilson
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Chief Officer
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	<a href="mailto:fiona.wilson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk">fiona.wilson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk</a>
<b>DATE</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023