



REPORT TO: East Lothian Integration Joint Board
MEETING DATE: 20 February 2025
BY: Chief Officer
SUBJECT: Appointment to the IJB Chief Finance Officer Post

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report informs the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the appointment to the Chief Finance Officer post on a substantive basis.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The IJB is asked to:

- 2.1 Note that following a competitive recruitment process, Mike Porteous has been appointed to the post of Chief Finance Officer, with effect from January 2025.
- 2.2 Note that in December 2024, it was agreed to increase the hours of the Chief Finance Officer from 0.5 WTE to 1.0 WTE, reflecting the importance of the post in securing a balanced budget for year end and in supporting the delivery of efficiencies across work programmes.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The IJB is a public body arising from the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act 2014 and is a s106 body under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. As such (under s95 of that Act) it must have a responsible officer overseeing the financial governance of the Board. That is the role of the CFO.
- 3.2 On establishment of East Lothian IJB and Midlothian IJB in 2015 it was agreed that one CFO post would support both Boards.
- 3.3 With the departure of the previous Chief Finance Officer in September 2023, interim arrangements covered the vacancy on a 3 day a week flexible basis, split between East Lothian IJB and Midlothian IJB. These interim arrangements continued while permanent recruitment to the shared CFO post was pursued.
- 3.4 Demands on the CFO increased with the focus by East Lothian IJB and Midlothian IJB on delivery of financial savings and financial balance.

Following discussion between NHS Lothian, East Lothian Council and Midlothian Council, it was agreed that two separate full-time CFO posts should be established for each IJB, rather than appointing to a shared post. This was to allow each IJB to focus on its particular financial challenges and to make the posts more attractive to prospective candidates.

- 3.5 The 0.5 WTE arrangements for East Lothian IJB ended in December 2024 with the departure of the interim CFO. At this point a replacement interim CFO was appointed on a 1.0 WTE basis.

4 ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council have been consulted with through their senior management teams, as has the IJB. All parties have received updates on progress towards filling the CFO post on a substantive basis.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no policy implications arising from the proposal.

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.

7 DIRECTIONS

- 7.1 The subject of this report does not affect the IJB's current directions or require an additional direction to be put in place.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Financial - The IJB was not charged for the CFO costs up to the end of 2023/24, as the post was funded by NHS Lothian as part of the funding of 'corporate' support to the IJB by both partners per the Integration Scheme. However, as the role is being moved from part-time to whole time the additional funding needs to be met by the IJB.
- 8.2 This new funding arrangement adds pressure to the IJB core budget but will be managed through the 2025 to 2026 financial planning process.
- 8.3 Personnel - None.
- 8.4 Other - None.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 The Revised East Lothian Integration Scheme 2022.

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