

Midlothian Integration Joint Board



Thursday 3 May 2018 at 2.00pm

Appointment of Chief Finance Officer

Item number: 5.8

Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to outline the process that will be used to appoint the Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer) for the Midlothian Integration Joint Board.

Board members are asked to:

- Agree the proposals for the Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer) recruitment.

Appointment of Chief Finance Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates the Midlothian Integration Joint Board (MIJB) on the proposals for the recruitment of the Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the proposals for the Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer) recruitment.

3 Background and main report

- 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 MIJB agreed in August 2015 that there should be a shared Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer) appointment between Midlothian and East Lothian IJBs and that this should be subject to review after two years.
- 3.3 David King was subsequently appointed to this post in October 2015. David has supported both IJBs and has held an operational role in NHS Lothian. David has now confirmed that he will retire in October 2018.
- 3.4 In line with the MIJB’s previous decision, the current arrangement has been reviewed. The Chief Officers of East and Mid Lothian IJBs have held discussions with the Deputy Director of Finance for NHS Lothian and the Section 95 Officers from Midlothian and East Lothian 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 and Mid Lothian has progressed as has 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 the 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 Midlothian or East Lothian IJBs separately would require full-time input to either IJB.
- 3.9 Therefore, it is proposed that the existing arrangement on a permanent or secondment basis should be the basis for filling the Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer) post when the existing post holder retires. This is an opportunity from one of the three parties (NHS Lothian, Midlothian Council, East Lothian Council) to be Chief Financial Officer (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 Midlothian Council, East Lothian 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 MIJB.

4 Policy Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this paper implement national legislation and regulations on the establishment on IJBs.

5 Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The recommendations in this paper will be implemented in line with the recruitment policies of Midlothian Council, East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian which have already been tested for equalities.

6 Resource Implications

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

7 Risk

- 7.1 Failure to agree appropriate recruitment proposals, could potentially leave the Midlothian Integration Joint Board without a Chief Finance Officer (Section 95 Officer), once the current post holder retires.

8 Involving people

- 8.1 The issues in this paper have been discussed with the IJBs partners but do not require wider engagement.

9 Background Papers

9.1 There are no background papers in relation to the content of this report.

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Appendices: None