

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	13 September 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

POSITION OF TREASURER TO THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To propose a change of Treasurer to the Fire & Rescue Authority.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since the Fire & Rescue Authority was formed in 1998 the position of Treasurer has been filled by a senior financial officer of the County Council, initially Mr Arthur Deakin, and since 2003 by myself. I believe that these arrangements have worked well to the mutual benefit of both the Authority and the County Council.
- 2.2 The County Council is in the midst of a major restructuring of all its departments, and in addition all "Resources" functions (i.e. Finance, HR, ICT and Property) are being integrated under the control of the Strategic Director of Resources. In terms of the finance function, this will mean that as the newly appointed Service Director (Finance) I will be taking on a much wider role than previously, and will also have a much greater involvement in the County Council's strategic budgeting processes. This additional workload will make it more difficult for me to devote the same time and effort to Authority business as previously.
- 2.3 One of the County Council's Assistant Treasurers, Mr Peter Hurford, is retiring from the County Council at the end of September 2006, having given the County Council excellent service for over 30 years in a senior position. Mr Hurford has managed the budgetary processes for the County Council, leads the group which is responsible for the production of the Statement of Accounts, has significant experience in investment and treasury management and other financial matters. Mr Hurford is well known and respected by County Council Members and is also a familiar figure to the City Council's representatives on the Pension Fund Investment Sub Committee. I have consulted with Mr Deakin, the Strategic Director of Resources and the County Council's Section 151 officer and he is happy to nominate Mr Hurford for the position.
- 2.4 Mr Hurford has indicated that he would be very pleased to accept the County Council's nomination to the post of Treasurer to the Fire & Rescue Authority. It is proposed that Mr Hurford would have access to all other County Council staff for advice and guidance as part of the proposed arrangement which is paid for by the Authority as part of the overall charge for Treasury services. The County Council would continue to be responsible for continuity of the Treasurer service to the Authority, and would nominate another suitably qualified and suitably experienced officer to the post at such time as Mr Hurford stood down.

- 2.5 In addition, the County Council would ensure senior representation at Authority meetings if Mr Hurford were to be unavailable to attend, either as a result of holidays or sickness, and I am happy to assure the Authority that I would assume the role as designate Treasurer in Mr Hurford's absence in order to give the Authority the guarantee of continuity of senior input.
- 2.6 The terms of engagement will be a matter for the County Council to negotiate with Mr Hurford, but within the existing fee payable by the Authority to the County Council for the provision of Treasury services, ensuring no additional costs to the Authority.
- 2.7 It is suggested that the appointment of Mr Hurford as Treasurer to the Fire & Rescue Authority be for an initial period of three years, to be reviewed by the Authority and extended at their discretion, and that any subsequent appointment be subject to the continued nomination by the County Council of an appropriately qualified senior officer.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Authority accepts my resignation as Treasurer and that Mr Peter Hurford be appointed as the Treasurer to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority on the terms set out in the body of the report and that Mr Alan Sumbly be appointed as designate Treasurer in his absence.

Alan Sumbly
TREASURER TO THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY