



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER AND HEAD OF FINANCE TO THE AUTHORITY

Report of the Chair of the Appointments Committee

Date: 15 December 2023

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the outcome of the selection process by the Appointments Committee for the role of Treasurer and Head of Finance role to the Fire Authority and seek to endorse the reports recommendations.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members:

- Endorse the Service Level Agreement with Nottinghamshire Police for support in the provision of Treasurer to satisfy the statutory duties of the Fire Authority.
- Endorse the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to substantiate Beverley Bull as the Head of Finance and Treasurer to the Fire Authority with effect from 04 March 2024.

CONTACT OFFICER

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1.BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report follows the decision of the previous Head of Finance and Treasurer to leave Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service for a new opportunity in early November 2023. Treasurer support to the Fire Authority is being provided in collaboration with Nottinghamshire Police as an interim arrangement, whilst the Head of Finance function is being fulfilled through interim acting up arrangements within the Finance team.
- 1.2 The Appointments Committee of the Fire Authority completed a selection process and this report presents the recommendation to appoint Beverley Bull to the role and seek the support and endorsement of the Fire Authority.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Within the Authority constitution, the role of Treasurer is appointed by the Fire Authority. It is independent of the Chief Fire Officer and Monitoring Officer and is directly accountable to the Authority. This is therefore reflected in the local governance arrangements.
- 2.2 Following the resignation of the previous Treasurer and Head of Finance, the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Fire Authority, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and Clerk, agreed that interim Treasurer arrangements would be required as the timescales fell outside the normal committee reporting cycles to appoint substantively to the role.
- 2.4 On behalf of the Fire Authority, the Chief Fire Officer consulted with the Chief Constable and the interim arrangements can run in to 2024, subject to review and the substantive onboarding process being completed and offers additional resilience to the Authority.
- 2.5 The Chief Fire Officer will manage the role on a day-to-day basis, however, to maintain independence, primary accountability on all financial matters will be to the Authority.
- 2.6 The current cost of the service level agreement is set at £10k, and it has been agreed, subject to approval today.
- 2.7 Following the conclusion of the Appointments Committee, the unanimous recommendation to the full Fire Authority is to endorse the appointment of Beverley Bull to the role, effective from 04 March 2024.
- 2.8 The start date for employment with the Fire Authority reflects the current employer's required notice period, with pre-employment checks and vetting already completed. Funding for the interim arrangements are detailed within Section 3 of this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current allocated budget for the service level agreement is £10k. This will be covered within the existing Service budgets.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Subject to approval of the Authority, Beverley Bull will have an induction and development plan to support transition to the Service and Authority, overseen by the Chief Fire Officer.

5. EQUALITIES AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities or ethical implications arising from this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The role of Treasurer is defined in the Local Government Act 1972, and relevant areas are clearly reflected in the new job description and contract of employment.
- 7.2 The appointment referred to in this report will assist in ensuring that the Authority is compliant with the legal requirements set out in the legislation with regards to proper management and monitoring of its' financial affairs.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

The arrangements outlined in this report continue to support the collaborative activity undertaken in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Police and will be subject to review on behalf of all parties.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Endorse the Service Level Agreement with Nottinghamshire Police for support in the provision of Treasurer to satisfy the statutory duties of the Fire Authority.
- 10.2 Endorse the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to substantiate Beverley Bull as the Head of Finance and Treasurer to the Fire Authority with effect from 04 March 2024.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Councillor Michael Payne
CHAIR OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE