

6. Appointment of Treasurer

Purpose of report

1. To confirm the appointment of Treasurer to the Authority.
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Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer recommend that the Authority confirm the appointment of Mr Tony Wood as an interim Treasurer to the Authority with immediate effect.

Background

2. Under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.”
3. That role is currently undertaken by the position of Treasurer to the Authority.
4. In addition to the 1972 Act, the Local Government Finance Act 1988, section 113 sets out the qualifications necessary in order to be eligible for the position of Treasurer. The person appointed must be a member of one or more of the following bodies:
 - the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales,
 - the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland,
 - the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants,
 - the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy,
 - the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland,
 - Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, and
 - any other body of accountants established in the United Kingdom and for the time being approved by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section.
5. In December 1997, the Joint Fire Committee that was in place prior to the commencement of the Fire Authority confirmed that the Treasurer of Hereford & Worcester County Council, Mr Mike Weaver be appointed as Treasurer to the Combined Fire Authority. Mr Weaver has served as Treasurer to the Authority since that appointment.

Current Situation

6. Mr Weaver has resigned his position as Treasurer for the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority and the Deputy Treasurer is currently fulfilling the role. Due to the departure of Mr Weaver, it is necessary to formally appoint a Treasurer to ensure that the Authority meets its statutory requirements.

7. Mr Tony Wood has previously worked in an interim Principal Management position in the Service assisting the Director of Finance in administering the financial affairs of the organisation. Mr Wood recently left the Fire and Rescue Service as his temporary contract came to end and it is now proposed that Mr Wood be appointed to the position of Treasurer. Mr Wood is ideally placed to act as Treasurer, due to his previous experience in Local Government generally and this Authority in particular. He is independent of the Fire and Rescue Authority.
8. The Authority proposes an interim contract for a six month period to a maximum of 25 days over the six months with additional days for exceptional items at the discretion of the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Authority
9. During this 6 month period the Authority will carry out a review of the Section 151 role. The interim arrangement and this review will be considered by the Authority at its meeting in February 2011.

Conclusion/Summary

10. The Authority is recommended to appoint Mr Tony Wood as Treasurer to the Authority with immediate effect, on an interim basis, to ensure that this statutory post is filled. This would enable the Authority to contain the expenditure on the Treasurer's post within existing Service budgets.

Corporate Considerations

11. A Business Impact Analysis form is attached at Appendix 1 to measure and address the proposals contained in this report. The form contains information on the potential resource implications, legal issues, strategic policy links, equality/ethical issues and risk management implications.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Business Impact Assessment Form

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