

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 30 November 2022

Subject: Appointment of Treasurer

Report by: The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Author: Lauren Haslam, Monitoring Officer

For: Information

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) of the appointment of a new Treasurer and S112 Officer to the CFA.

Recommendation

2. The Authority is recommended to:
 - a. Note the appointment of Amy Oliver as the Treasurer and S112 Officer to the CFA, in her capacity as Director of Finance and S151 Officer for Leicester City Council; and
 - b. Note that the Deputy S151 Officer (Colin Sharpe) remains as the named Pensions Scheme Manager.

Executive Summary

3. The formal role of CFA Treasurer is held by the Director of Finance at Leicester City Council. At its meeting on 16 June 2021, the CFA approved that the then Director of Finance formally delegated her powers as Treasurer and S112 Officer to the CFA to the City Council's Deputy S151 Officer, who in practice has assumed the lead role for the Treasurer function and supported the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service and CFA.
4. The City Council has now appointed a new Director of Finance and S151 Officer, who will assume the role of Treasurer and S112 Officer to the CFA. Amy Oliver will take up this role from 21 November 2022.
5. The delegations previously given to the Deputy S151 Officer will ultimately not be reviewed, although it is intended that this officer (Colin Sharpe) will remain as the named Pension Scheme Manager and will usually attend the Corporate Governance Committee.

Background

Treasurer to the CFA

6. The CFA has a duty under section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1998 (Act) to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and secure that one of its officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs (Chief Finance Officer).
7. The CFA must appoint a Treasurer of the Combined Fire Service fund in accordance with paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 of the Leicestershire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996 (Order).
8. The CFA has the power by virtue of paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 to the Order to make arrangements with any constituent authority for the use by the CFA of the services of officers and employees of the constituent authority. Leicester City Council is a constituent authority under the Order.
9. Article 9.2 also provides that the duties of the Monitoring Officer and the Treasurer (apart from the administration of the financial affairs of the CFA) must be carried out personally. If these powers are delegated or carried out by a nominated Deputy, accountability will remain with the Monitoring Officer and the Treasurer as appropriate.

Firefighters' Pension Fund Scheme Manager

10. The Scheme Manager is defined in the 2014 regulations as being the Fire and Rescue Authority. Hence, the CFA is responsible for managing and administering the firefighters' pension scheme. The CFA may delegate the scheme manager role, however, it is important to note this does not absolve the CFA of responsibility.
11. The CFA at its meeting in December 2015 appointed the CFA Treasurer as the Pension Scheme Manager. This was subsequently reflected in the Constitution, with Article 9.4 (g) specifying that the Treasurer will undertake the role of Scheme Manager for the Firefighters' Pension Schemes on behalf of the CFA.
12. The Deputy Director of Finance, Colin Sharpe, has formally assumed the role of Scheme Manager on behalf of the Treasurer since 2021 and it is proposed that this continues to be the case. At the time of Mr Sharpe assuming this role, a variation to the Constitution was undertaken, replacing Article 9.4 (g) with: "The Treasurer will usually undertake the role of Scheme Manager for the Firefighters' Pension Schemes on behalf of the CFA, subject to any limitations imposed by the CFA. However, the CFA may alternatively formally delegate this role to another senior officer of LFRS or a constituent authority."

Underpinning Operational Document

13. The above formal appointments set out in the Constitution are supported by a document setting out the more detailed working arrangements, roles and responsibilities. This will be updated to reflect the changes in this report.

Report Implications/Impact

14. Legal (including crime and disorder)

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

15. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

16. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

It is important to secure proper and effective management of the CFA's finances and pension schemes.

17. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

There are no staff, service user or stakeholder implications arising from this report.

18. Environmental

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

19. Impact upon "Our Plan" Objectives

The Finance and Resources strategic aim of demonstrating value for money is supported by the effective management of the CFA's finances and pension schemes.

Background Papers

Report to the CFA – 16 June 2021 – Pension Fund Scheme Manager and Treasurer Arrangements

<https://leicesterfire.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/pension-fund-scheme-manager-and-treasurer-arrangements.pdf>

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