



AGENDA ITEM: 9

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

14 December 2015

ANNUAL REVIEW OF TREASURER'S STATUTORY APPOINTMENT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Report by Colin Everett, Clerk and Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform members of the need for a review to be undertaken into the service level agreement for the provision of a Treasurer to the Fire and Rescue Authority and the proposed arrangements for an appointment to that statutory post.

Information

- 2 Members will be aware that a number of support functions are outsourced to North Wales Police and other local authorities within Wales. Under this arrangement there exists three service level agreements (SLAs) between North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC). One is for the provision of general legal services, another is for the provision of financial services and one is for the statutory appointment of Treasurer to the Fire and Rescue Authority.
- 3 The role of Treasurer has been undertaken for the last 19 years by Mr Ken Finch. In March 2015 the Fire Authority confirmed this appointment, recognising the need for continuity and experience in this role during difficult financial times. The SLA was signed in March 2015 and was due to run for a period of 5 years.
- 4 However, Mr Finch is due to leave his employment with CCBC at the end of January 2016 which brings the current agreement to an end and precipitates the need for a review of the existing arrangements.

- 5 Within the current service level agreement there is the facility to review these arrangements on an annual basis, should the need arise. It is therefore proposed to review the SLA. It has been indicated by CCBC that it will no longer be in a position to provide a Treasurer with its current level of resources and personnel and that an appointment will need to be made through advertisement and a competitive process in the new financial year.
- 6 In the interim, it is proposed that the role of Treasurer could be undertaken by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, who is a qualified accountant. Should Members agree to this arrangement, Mrs Docx would be entitled to an additional payment of £597 per month, which is the pro rata fee for the Treasurer.
- 7 North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority will also need to confirm with Conwy County Borough Council that one of its officers (currently Sandra Forrest) will continue to be an accountable officer in support of the S151 role, as the SLA for financial services will remain in place. This would strengthen the relationship, mitigate risk and assist in corporate and financial governance.

Recommendations

- 8 Members are requested to note the content of the report and approve a review of the SLA for Treasurer to the Authority.
- 9 In addition, Members are requested to approve the interim arrangements and the appointment process, as outlined above.