



AGENDA ITEM: 15

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21 March 2016

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 findings of the review 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 At the Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on the 14 December 2015 Members commissioned a review into the provision of the statutory appointment of Treasurer to the Fire and Rescue Authority and the associated service level agreement.
- 3 This review was prompted by Mr Ken Finch, who has undertaken the role of Treasurer for the last 19 years, leaving his employment with CCBC at the end of January 2016. This brought the current agreement to an end and precipitated the need for a review of the existing arrangements.
- 4 Through the national issues committee (NIC) the arrangements of the other two Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales have been examined. Both South Wales FRA and Mid and West Wales FRA operate a slightly different model. South Wales FRA employ an independent Treasurer for 100 days per year at a cost of £15,021. Their requirement is greater because they do not have a qualified

accountant as a member of the principal management team. Whilst in Mid and West Wales FRA one of its Assistant Chief Officers is a qualified accountant and she undertakes the role of Treasurer as part of her duties. Although this brings with it the benefit of detailed knowledge of the organisation it does not provide an independent overview of the Authority's finances.

- 5 Having compared these arrangements with those in place for North Wales FRA, it is proposed that North Wales FRA continues with its own arrangements which provide the benefits of both models. That is to have an independent Treasurer contracted for 12 days per year at a cost of £7,164 working with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, who is a qualified accountant.
- 6 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.

Recommendation

- 7 Members are requested to note the content of the report and approve the proposed arrangements for the provision of a Treasurer to the Fire and Rescue Authority
- 8 In addition, Members are requested to approve the appointment process, as outlined above.