



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Report title

Appointment of Interim Director of Corporate Services

Report to

London Fire Commissioner

Date

Report by

Assistant Director People Services

Report number

LFC-0669

Protective marking: **OFFICIAL**

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I agree the recommended decision below.

Andy Roe

London Fire Commissioner

Date

This decision was signed
remotely on 9 February 2022

Summary

The permanent Director of Corporate Services is due to start on 1st June 2022 and in the intervening period an interim is required to ensure business continuity until the permanent Director starts in post.

Recommended decision

That the London Fire Commissioner appoints Mark McLaughlin as the Interim Director of Corporate Services at a cost of [REDACTED] per day for four days a week for a period of up to 5 months, at a total cost of up to [REDACTED].

Background

1. Recruitment to this post via agency (Gatenby Sanderson and Reed) began in December 2021. 18 candidates were put forward over the period and assessed by the Assistant Director for People Services and Director of Transformation. Three candidates were interviewed by a panel consisting of the Assistant Director for People Services, the London Fire Commissioner (LFC), Executive Director of Resources at the GLA and the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience. Candidates also took part in a stakeholder panel with a range of members of staff from the Corporate Services Function.

Recommendation of the panel

2. The panel's recommendation is that Mark McLaughlin is appointed as Interim Director of Corporate Services at a cost of ██████ per day for four days a week for a maximum of 5 months at a total cost of up to ██████.

Finance comments

3. This report recommends that an Interim Director of Corporate Services is appointed at a revenue cost of up to ██████ over the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. The forecast cost for the interim director is in excess of the budget allocation for the permanent post, with the financial impact of the overspend 2021/22 being managed within the overall corporate underspend, which is forecast at £667k as at the end of Quarter 2. The spend above budget within 2022/23 will be contained within the overall FRS staff budget for the year, as part of existing financial and recruitment controls and will be monitored as part of the regular financial position reporting.

Workforce comments

4. The respective Representative Bodies have been consulted on the proposals for an interim appointment to cover the notice period for the permanent appointment.

Legal comments

5. Section 1 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 states that the London Fire Commissioner is the fire and rescue authority for Greater London. Section 327A (5) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires the Commissioner to secure that the London Fire and Rescue Service is efficient and effective. This means the personnel, services and equipment secured by the London Fire Commissioner for the purposes of carrying out the Commissioner's functions.
6. In accordance with Section 5A Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (FRSA 2004), the London Fire Commissioner, being a 'relevant authority', may do 'anything it considers appropriate for the purposes of the carrying out of any of its functions'. This is a matter coming within that power.

Sustainability implications

7. There are no sustainability implications.

Equalities implications

8. The London Fire Commissioner and decision-takers are required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 of the Equality Act 2010) when exercising his functions and taking decisions.
9. It is important to note that consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty is not a one-off task. The duty must be fulfilled before taking a decision, at the time of taking a decision, and after the decision has been taken.
10. The protected characteristics are: Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Pregnancy and maternity, Marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination), Race (ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), Religion or belief (including lack of belief), Sex, and Sexual orientation.
11. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the LFC, in the exercise of all his functions (i.e. everything he does), to have due regard to the need to:
 - (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct.

- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
12. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic where those disadvantages are connected to that characteristic;
 - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
13. The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
14. Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- (a) tackle prejudice, and
 - (b) promote understanding.
15. Gatenby Sanderson and Reed, who were asked to identify candidates have a track record of attracting candidates from a diverse background using targeted networks and online advertising.
16. There is no evidence of the process having any adverse impact on those applicants with protected characteristics although the Brigade would recognise that further ongoing work is needed in ensuring that the senior management group represents the wider workforce and community that LFB services.