

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSETS, CULTURE AND HOUSING
CABINET MEMBER**

SINGLE HOMELESSNESS FUND

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the creation of a fixed term post of Assertive Outreach Worker funded by the grant secured from the Government's Single Homelessness Fund and existing earmarked reserves allocated to homelessness prevention.
- 1.2 The post will engage with rough sleepers, the hard to house and single homeless to try to break the cycle of homelessness through support and engagement with appropriate services.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 This authority along with Hull, East Riding and North East Lincolnshire made a successful Humber wide bid to the Government's Single Homelessness pot. The grant money is for engagement with single homeless and the hard to house to try to break the cycle that results in long term rough sleeping.
- 2.2 We currently have an Assertive Outreach Worker provided by The Forge. Our proposal is to bring that post in house. This will allow us to extend the funding for longer.
- 2.3 The proposed job description includes duties around our current temporary accommodation provision. The worker will also develop both the 'No Second Night Out' initiative and the 'SWEP' (severe weather emergency protocols). The post also provides much needed additional support within the Housing Advice Team.
- 2.4 The job description is an indicative Grade 6. All of the salary costs, until the end of March 2017, are met by the grant funding and some earmarked reserves for homelessness prevention.

2.5 This is a key post for our homelessness service particularly given the increasing visibility of street homelessness in North Lincolnshire.

2.6 Appendix 1 shows the current and proposed staffing structure for Housing Advice and Appendix 2 shows the staffing structure for Operational Housing, including the addition of the new post.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Option one – approve the creation of a fixed term post.

3.2 Option two – continue with the current arrangement.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option one is the preferred option. Having the Assertive Outreach Worker as an integral part of the Housing Advice Team provides greater capacity within the team. It will also provide better value for money for the Council.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial – the annual salary costs for the post amounting to £26,716 inclusive of on-costs, are fully funded for the next 12 months. The costs quoted assume the mid-point of Grade 6 for estimating purposes.

5.2 Staffing – an internal post provides more capacity across the Housing Advice Team which is under pressure with increasing numbers of clients and the very visible evidence of rough sleepers currently around the town centre.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 This report was sent to finance, HR and housing strategy for comment. To date, we have received no adverse comments.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the creation of a fixed term contract for an Assertive Outreach Worker within the Housing Advice Team.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

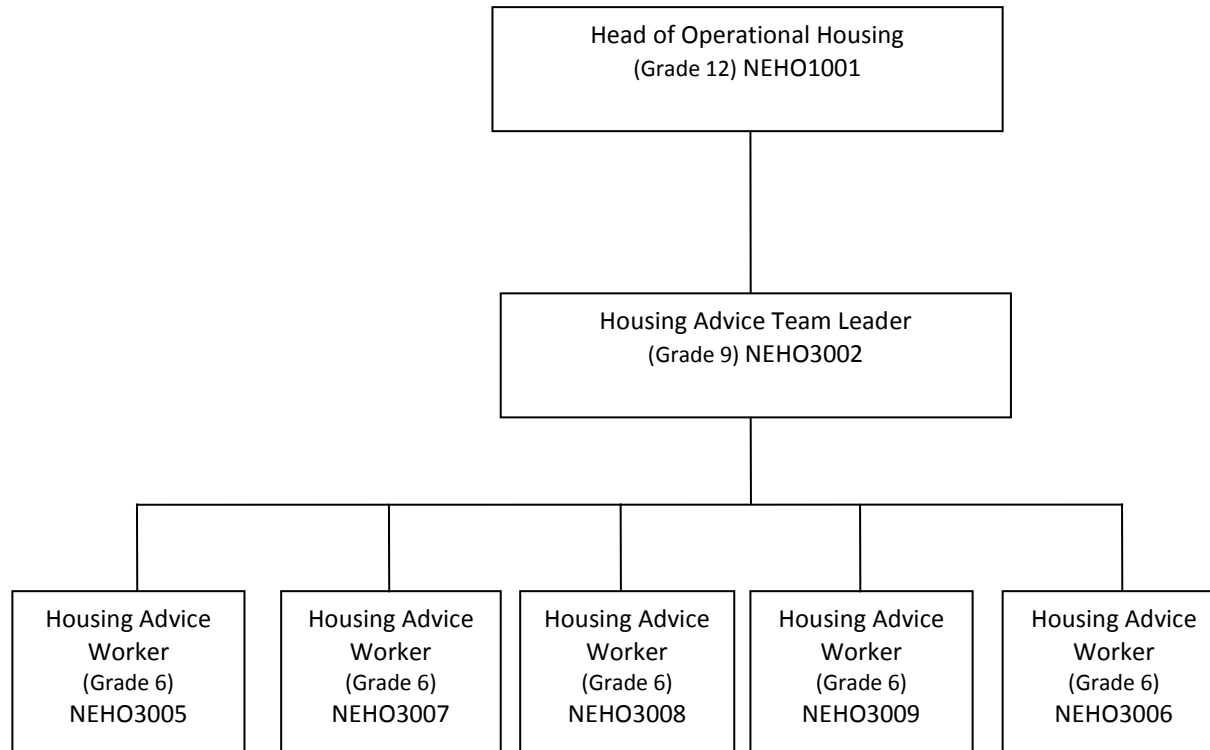
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APPENDIX 1

Places Directorate – Technical & Environmental Services Division

HOUSING ADVICE TEAM

Current Structure

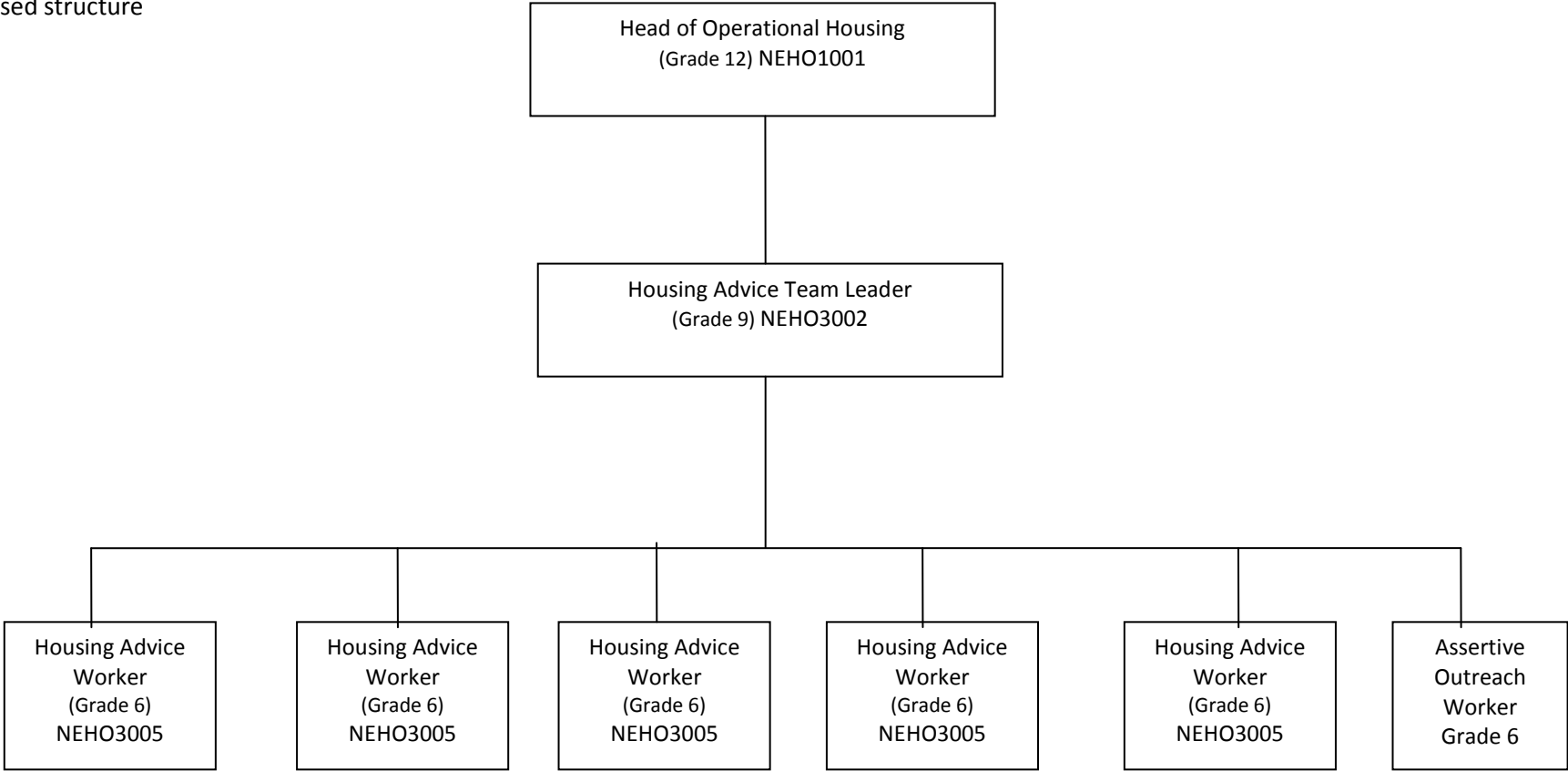


APPENDIX 1

Places Directorate – Technical & Environmental Services Division

HOUSING ADVICE TEAM

Proposed structure



OPERATIONAL HOUSING SERVICES TEAM

