



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/08/
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	18 DECEMBER 2008
SUBJECT OF REPORT	APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHIEF FIRE OFFICER – FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Fire Officer
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer serve as Acting Chief Fire Officer from 1 to 11 January 2009 inclusive (the period between the retirement of the current Chief Fire Officer and the commencement of employment of the Chief Fire Officer (Designate)) and authorised to exercise all powers and duties associated with the post of Chief Fire Officer, with his salary adjusted to be commensurate with this post during this period.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This report addresses the issue of the Service retaining an executive, operational and administrative Head of the Service in the intervening period between the retirement of the current Chief Fire Officer on 31 December 2008 and the commencement of the recently-appointed successor on Monday 12 January 2009.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	The proposal can be contained from within existing budget provision.
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	This report has undergone an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening which has not identified any potential negative impact that would warrant a full impact assessment on this occasion.
APPENDICES	Nil.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	Nil.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 OF SCHEDULE 12(A) (AS AMENDED) TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

1. At its last meeting the Authority confirmed the appointment of Mr. Lee Howell (currently Chief Fire Officer of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service) to succeed this Service's current Chief Fire Officer on his retirement. The Authority's constitutional governance documents (Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegations etc). define the Chief Fire Officer as the person duly appointed by the Authority as the executive, operational and administrative head of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service.
2. The Combination Scheme establishing the Authority requires it to appoint a Chief Fire Officer; Standing Orders further require that this appointment may not be delegated. The Authority's governance documents also provide for the delegation of certain functions to the Chief Fire Officer or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Any delegated function may, however, be referred by the relevant officer to the full Authority or one of its committees as appropriate.
3. The exercise, by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, of functions delegated to the Chief Fire Officer is normally intended to apply in instances where the substantive post-holder is "absent" – for example, during periods of annual leave or sickness. The current Chief Fire Officer will retire on 31 December 2008. The new Chief Fire Officer will take up his appointment on 12 January 2009. In effect, this means that for a period of 11 days the Service will be without an executive, operational and administrative head. To address this situation, it is proposed that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer should serve as Acting Chief Fire Officer (with commensurate remuneration) for the period 1 January to 11 January 2009 inclusive.
4. The approved revenue budget for 2008/09 contains provision to meet the salary and on-costs of both the Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Consequently, the proposal can be met from within existing budget provision.
5. In light of the above, it is recommended that the Authority approves the proposal for the Deputy Chief Fire Officer to serve as Acting Chief Fire Officer (with commensurate remuneration) for the period 1 January to 11 January 2009 inclusive.

P Young
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER