



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/09/26
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	28 SEPTEMBER 2009
SUBJECT OF REPORT	PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE TO ALTERNATE DIRECTOR ON SOUTH WEST FIRE CONTROL LTD.
LEAD OFFICER	Clerk to the Authority
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the Authority determines whether, as a one off basis for the current municipal year, it would wish to approve the allowance available for the Authority appointed Director to South West Fire Control Ltd (the Local Authority Controlled Company with governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre) being paid to the Alternate Director</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>At its Annual Meeting the Authority appointed Cllr. Mark Healey as its Vice-Chairman for the 2009/10 municipal year (until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2010). Councillor Healey was also appointed as this Authority's nominated Director on the Board of South West Fire Control Ltd, the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre (SW RCC). The Articles of Association for the Company provide for any Director so nominated to appoint an "alternate" Director.</p> <p>The Authority's approved Scheme of Members Allowances makes provision Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for both the Vice-Chairman of the Authority (£6,000) and for the duly appointed LACC Director (£2,000). The Scheme also provides, however, that any one individual Member may only receive one SRA - at the highest appropriate rate – irrespective of how many eligible positions they hold. Consequently, as Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Healey is not entitled to receive the SRA attracting to the LACC Director Position.</p> <p>Councillor Healey has indicated that he is unlikely to remain in post as the Authority's appointed LACC Director beyond the end of the current municipal year. Cllr. Healey has nominated Cllr. John Woodman as his "alternate" Director. The intention is that Cllr. Woodman will attend every LACC meeting together with Cllr. Healey by way of seeking to ensure appropriate succession planning, given the importance of this project, for when Cllr. Healey steps down.</p>

	In light of this, Cllr. Healey has suggested that, as he is ineligible under the current Scheme to claim the LACC Director SRA, this should instead be paid to Cllr. Woodman as alternate Director on a one-off basis for the remainder of the current municipal year (i.e until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2010) to reflect the commitment of Cllr. Woodman in undertaking this role.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	The approved budget for Members Allowances for 2009/10 contains provision, amongst other things, for payment of an SRA of £2,000 to the Authority appointed LACC Director.
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An initial assessment has revealed that there are no equality issues arising from this report.
APPENDICES	Nil.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its Annual Meeting the Authority appointed Cllr. Mark Healey as its Vice-Chairman for the 2009/10 municipal year (until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2010). Councillor Healey was also appointed as this Authority's nominated Director on the Board of South West Fire Control Ltd, the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre (SW RCC). The Articles of Association for the Company provide for any Director so nominated to appoint an "alternate" Director.
- 1.2 The Authority has an approved Scheme of Members Allowances drafted and operated in accordance with the relevant regulations (the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003). This Scheme, in addition to providing for a basic allowance payable to all Authority Members, also makes provision for a number of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) including one for the Vice-Chairman of the Authority (£6,000) and one for the duly appointed LACC Director (£2,000). The Scheme also provides, however, that any one individual Member may only receive one SRA - at the highest appropriate rate – irrespective of how many eligible positions they hold. Consequently, as Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Healey is not entitled to receive the SRA attracting to the LACC Director Position.

2. CURRENT POSITION AND PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Councillor Healey has indicated that he is unlikely to remain in post as the Authority's appointed LACC Director beyond the end of the current municipal year. Cllr. Healey has nominated Cllr. John Woodman as his "alternate" Director. The intention is that Cllr. Woodman will attend every LACC meeting together with Cllr. Healey by way of seeking to ensure appropriate succession planning, given the importance of this project, for when Cllr. Healey steps down.
- 2.2 In light of this, Cllr. Healey has suggested that, as he is not entitled under the current Scheme to claim the LACC Director SRA, that this should instead be paid to Cllr. Woodman as alternate Director on a one-off basis for the remainder of the current municipal year (i.e until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2010) to reflect the commitment of Cllr. Woodman in undertaking this role.
- 2.3 The existing regulations for Members Allowances would allow for this proposal although, should it be agreed, it would in effect represent an amendment to the Authority's currently approved Scheme and as such would need to be publicised in accordance with the regulations.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The 2009/10 approved budget for the Members Allowances Scheme already makes provision for payment of an SRA of £2,000 per annum to the Authority-appointed LACC Director. Additionally, the minor costs associated with publication of any amendment to the Scheme can be met from within approved funding.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Authority is invited to consider this report and determine whether, on a one-off basis, it would wish to make the SRA normally payable to the Authority-appointed LACC Director available instead to the Alternate Director for the remainder of the 2009/10 municipal year (i.e. until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2010).

MIKE PEARSON
Clerk to the Authority