



# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>DSFRA/13/18</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DEVON &amp; SOMERSET FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>10 JULY 2013</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORITY TREASURER</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Chief Fire Officer</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<p>(a) <i>That a small Treasurer Appointment Committee, comprising three or five Members, be established with delegated authority to determine the appointment of a new Treasurer for the Authority;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>That the Authority appoints Members to serve on the Committee;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>that the Clerk be authorised to establish meeting(s) of the Committee with a view to it concluding its work prior to the departure of the existing Treasurer;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>that, having appointed a new Treasurer, the Committee be formally disbanded.</i></p>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	Following on from the decisions taken at the last Authority meeting relating to a restructure of the Senior Management Team, this report now addresses the proposed process for the appointment of a new Authority Treasurer.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	To be met from within existing resources.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS (ERBA)</b>	The process to be adopted will be fully compliant with equalities legislation.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Nil.
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Minute DSFRA/12, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority Ordinary Meeting 30 May 2013.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 At its Ordinary Meeting on 30 May 2013, the Authority approved certain proposals set out in report DSFRA/13/13 relating to a restructure of the Senior Management Board in the interests of efficiency savings for the organisation. The report detailed, amongst other things, the departure of the Director of Finance and the deletion of this post from the organisation structure. It was acknowledged, however, that the role of Treasurer would need to continue and in this respect the Authority resolved (Minute DSFRA/12 (c) refers):

“that the arrangements for the Treasurer to the Authority role, which currently forms part of the Director of Finance post, be reviewed.”

## **2. PROPOSAL**

2.1 The role of Treasurer – or, more specifically, a proper financial officer – is one of three statutory officer posts for the Authority and is required by virtue of Section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. This is analogous to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Members will be aware of the “Section 151” officer post from their constituent authorities.

2.2 The Authority’s approved Scheme of Delegations empowers me to address all matters dealing with appointments etc. with the exception of the three statutory officer posts, for which it is entirely appropriate that the matter rests with the Authority. There is, however, an issue of timing and – given the importance of the post – it is assumed that the Authority would wish for there to be a “seamless” transition between the old and new arrangements for Treasurer.

2.3 Consequently, it is proposed that a small Committee of three or five Members be established with delegated authority to determine the appointment of new Authority Treasurer. In undertaking this task, the Committee will be assisted by relevant officers and will be provided with options (e.g. outsourcing; “in-house” appointment etc.) for the most effective and efficient discharging of this role. Work has already commenced to explore all the relevant options.

2.4 The Authority is invited to endorse this approach, establish and make appointments to such a Committee and ask the Clerk to arrange for it to discharge its responsibilities prior to the departure of the existing Treasurer.

**LEE HOWELL**  
**Chief Fire Officer**