

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>DSFRA/14/20</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DEVON &amp; SOMERSET FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>17 DECEMBER 2014</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Clerk to the Authority</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<p><b>(a) <i>that the Authority appoints one of its Members to fill the current vacancy on the Audit &amp; Performance Review Committee, the term of office of the appointment to be until the Annual Authority meeting in May 2015;</i></b></p> <p><b>(b) <i>that the formal Authority meeting scheduled for 10.00hours on Wednesday 28 January 2015 be cancelled, with the Forum meeting also scheduled for that day to commence at the earlier time of 10.00hours.</i></b></p>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	This report seeks appointment to a vacancy arising on the Authority's Audit & Performance Review Committee and advises of the proposed cancellation of the full Authority meeting scheduled for Wednesday 28 January 2015 and the rescheduling of the Members' Forum meeting on that day to 10.00hours.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	None.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS (ERBA)</b>	The contents of this report are considered compatible with existing human rights and equalities legislation.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Nil.
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Authority approved Calendar of Meetings 2014-15 Municipal Year Minutes of the Annual Authority meeting held on 29 May 2014

**1. VACANCY ON AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- 1.1 Councillor Kevin Ball has tendered his resignation from the Audit & Performance Review Committee resulting in a vacancy on that body. Application of the Authority's Standing Orders on Committee appointments (political proportionality) would indicate that a replacement for Councillor Ball should be a Conservative Councillor. Additionally, if the replacement were from amongst those Conservative councillors appointed to the Authority by Devon County Council, then this would help overall Committee membership reflect constituent authority proportions on the Authority.
- 1.2 The Authority is invited to consider the above and make an appointment to the vacancy on the Audit & Performance Review Committee, the term of office of the appointment to be until the Annual Authority meeting in 2015.

**2. PROPOSED CANCELLATION OF AUTHORITY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 28 JANUARY 2015**

- 2.1 The approved Authority Calendar of Meetings for the current (2014-15) municipal year features a date of 28 January 2015 for a formal, full Authority meeting. This meeting was included in the Calendar in the event that it would be necessary to approve a Corporate Plan (incorporating the Integrated Risk Management Plan – IRMP) containing specific proposals requiring public consultation.
- 2.2 The Authority has previously been informed, at Members' Forum meetings, that the next iteration of the Corporate Plan 2015-20 ("Creating Safer Communities") contains no specific proposals requiring formal public consultation and it continues to build on the general strategic thrust of matching resources to risk and concentrating on the three Service priorities of:
- improving public safety;
  - improving staff safety; and
  - creating a more efficient and effective organisation.
- 2.3 Whilst there is no requirement for formal public consultation, a series of pilots will be established in 2015 to inform the Corporate Plan 2016-17 onwards. Papers to the Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee and - where appropriate - the full Fire Authority will be produced to inform next steps. At the same time, discussions with trade unions will continue in order to maximise efficiencies. Finally, a wide range of options will be effected within the financial year to drive out the further savings needed to balance the budget for future years.
- 2.4 In light of the above, it is suggested that the formal Authority meeting provisionally scheduled for 28 January 2014 is now not needed and should be cancelled. It is still intended, however, that the Forum meeting also scheduled for that day should proceed, but commencing at the earlier time of 10.00hours.
- 2.5 The Authority is invited to approve this course of action.

**MIKE PEARSON**  
**Clerk to the Authority**