

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

**Human Resources Committee**

**Item 7**

**19 January 2011**

**Politically Restricted Posts**

**Report of the Chief Officer**

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**1 Summary**

- 1.1 In December 2004, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) established a list of politically restricted posts in accordance with legislation at that time. A post was considered to be politically restricted if it met one or more of three criteria (see 1.2 – 1.4 below).
- 1.2 The first criteria; Salary equal to or above £36,730 (Green Book ScP 44 and above or Grey Book equivalent). For HFRS this meant all Grey Book posts at Station Manager A Competent and above, and Green Book posts at mid-point grade L and above.
- 1.3 The second criteria; Specified in the Local Government and Housing Act (LGHA) 1989. These posts are described in the Act as Head of Paid Service, Statutory and Non-Statutory Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers, Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Officers exercising delegated powers (persons whose posts are specified by the authority in a list maintained in accordance with section 100G(2) and the LGA, and Assistants to political groups. These posts are specified as 'LGHA' in Appendix A.
- 1.4 The third criteria; Considered sensitive by virtue of their duties, and will meet one or both of the following;
1. Giving advice on a regular basis to the authority itself, to any committee or sub committee or to any joint committee on which the authority are represented; or where the authority are operating executive arrangements, to the executive of the authority; to any committee of that executive; or to any member of that executive who is also a member of the authority.
  2. Speaking on behalf of the authority on a regular basis to journalists or broadcasters.

These posts are specified as 'Sensitive' in Appendix A.

## **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Human Resources Committee agree the revised list of politically restricted posts within Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service as per Appendix A.

## **3 Change in legislation**

- 3.1 With effect from 12 January 2010, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 changed the reasons for which a post should be identified as politically restricted. Section 30 of the 2009 Act has removed political restriction by salary level.
- 3.2 As a result, HFRS has reviewed the list of current politically restricted posts to establish if those selected based on salary alone need to continue to be restricted based on either of the remaining two criteria.
- 3.3 In reviewing the list, HFRS has taken account of all posts within the organisation and has added new posts that have been created since the 2004 list was agreed.

## **4 Communication with post holders in politically restricted roles**

- 4.1 Once agreed, the individuals currently occupying posts that have been identified as politically restricted will be written to confirming the position.
- 4.2 HFRS will also write to individuals occupying posts that, as a result of the revised list, are no longer determined as politically restricted.

### **Background Information (Section 100D of Local Government Act 1972)**

The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

None

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.

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Appendix A

<b><i>Post Title</i></b>	<b><i>Reason(s)</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>
Chief Officer	LGHA/Sensitive	
Deputy Chief Officer	LGHA/Sensitive	
Director Of Corporate Services	LGHA/Sensitive	
Director Of Human Resources	LGHA/Sensitive	
Assistant Chief Officer x 2	LGHA/Sensitive	
Area Manager x 6	LGHA/Sensitive	
All Posts Group Manager	Sensitive	
Group Manager with Enforcement Responsibility	LGHA	
Group Manager Arson Task Force	LGHA/Sensitive	
Head of Financial and Office Services	LGHA	
Head of Marketing and Communications	Sensitive	
Internal Communications Manager	Sensitive	
Marketing and Communications Manager	Sensitive	