



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **New Assistant Chief Fire Officer For RBFRS**

Following an extensive selection process, Paul Southern has been appointed as Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Mr Southern will take up the post on 24 March when the current ACFO, Des Tidbury, joins Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service as Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

Mr Southern joined RBFRS as a firefighter in 1986. He became a Senior Divisional Officer in Service Delivery in 2003 and then Area Manager (Response) in Service Delivery in 2007. As ACFO, he will have responsibility for the Support Services Directorate, which incorporates departments such as Corporate Communications, Facilities, Document Management, IT, Transport and Operations Support.

Chief Fire Officer, Iain Cox, said: "I am delighted to welcome Paul to the Senior Management Team. The candidates for the role were of an extremely high calibre and Paul did exceptionally well amongst a very high standard of competition.

"Paul has a great deal to offer and will lead an excellent team as Director of Support Services. I wish him every success in his new role."

ACFO Southern said: "I am very pleased to have been successful, especially as the ability of the other candidates was so strong. I look forward to building on the achievements of Des Tidbury and his team in Support Services, and to joining Iain and other members of the Senior Management Team."

Mr Southern is aged 42, has been married for 20 years and has two children. He lives in West Berkshire.

**ENDS**