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## Unique fire and police job share set to save £100,000

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SAVINGS of more than £100,000 a year have been promised from a “unique” partnership between Herts’ police and crime commissioner and the county council.

Under the ground-breaking arrangements, Roy Wilsher, the current chief fire officer and director of community protection, is set to become the chief executive of the police and crime commissioner’s office while retaining his county council role.

Commissioner David Lloyd, who took office in November last year, said: “I am delighted at the prospect of having Roy on board and am excited about the opportunities it would create.

“I will be proposing Roy as my chief executive and will discuss this with the Police and Crime Panel.”

“The existing partnerships between the police and county and district councils have already led to improved services and better outcomes for local people and I’m confident this appointment would lead to even greater improvements in future.

“Roy would bring with him a wealth of experience working in the emergency services at a local, national and international level and I’m confident that we would quickly see the benefits of having him on board.”

Roy Wilsher said: “I am enthusiastic about the prospect of taking on the chief executive role alongside my existing commitments with the county council.

“This role is not about operational policing; that’s not my area of expertise and it’s not an area I would try to influence. I intend to focus on the wider community safety agenda, ensuring that we continue to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

“The fire service has had considerable success in tackling society’s more difficult issues for many years. Our LiFE scheme for young people at risk of offending, and our arson prevention programmes, have seen significant reductions in crime and nuisance behaviour. I would be on familiar ground and past experience has shown that we can achieve better results together than we can on our own.”

Nationally, public sector organisations have restructured their management teams and reduced head counts at a senior level, and some smaller district councils started to share chief officers.

However, this would be the first time a chief officer has worked for both a police and crime commissioner and a county council.



Mr Wilsher will be paid approximately £55,000 a year for the two-day-a-week role for police with an estimate that the job share will save more than £100,000 a year between the police and council from April.

Councillor Richard Thake, cabinet member for community safety, said: “With so many shared aspirations and the ongoing need to deliver more for less, sharing public sector resources makes sense and I’m sure we will be seeing more of these types of partnerships in the future.”