



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 22/09

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	9 February 2022
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Review of Authority Policies
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For consideration and approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In line with good governance practice, the Authority reviews its policy statements on a biennial basis.</p> <p>These were last reviewed during the February 2020 Authority meeting, where the policies were aligned to Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) methodology and published on the Service’s website.</p> <p>Officers have completed a full review of the current eight policy statements and are recommending that no fundamental changes are required.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to have appropriate and robust governance arrangements may adversely affect the efficiency, effectiveness and reputation of the Authority.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider and approve no changes to the current policy statements.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service current policy statements, as linked below:

	<p><u>Asset management policy statement</u></p> <p><u>Corporate governance policy statement</u></p> <p><u>Financial management policy statement</u></p> <p><u>Health and Safety policy statement</u></p> <p><u>People policy statement</u></p> <p><u>Prevention policy statement</u></p> <p><u>Protection policy statement</u></p> <p><u>Response and resilience policy statement</u></p>
APPENDICES	None for the purposes of this report
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Name: Jill McCrae, Temporary Director of Service Support.</p> <p>Email: jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk,</p> <p>Tel no: 01722 691070</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 At the inception of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority on 1 April 2016, Members established a number of policies to frame the Service. In line with good governance, these policies have been reviewed by Members during their February Authority meeting every two years.
- 1.2 In 2017, the then Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary was awarded the contract to inspect fire and rescue services in England, renaming as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- 1.3 In 2020, in the knowledge that inspection will be a continuous process for fire and rescue services, the Service aligned its planning, performance reporting and assurance arrangements to the HMICFRS methodology, to build the inspection process into business as usual. To positively support this realignment Members endorsed the alignment of their eight policy statements.
- 1.4 Following the Authority meeting in February 2020, the approved eight Authority policies were published on the Service's website.

2. Policy Statement Review

- 2.1 Consistent with good governance, the Authority's policy statements have been comprehensively reviewed by senior officers to ensure they continue to remain appropriate and robust.
- 2.2 Following this review, no fundamental changes to the statements have been identified.
- 2.3 The 2020 realignment of the policies, to the HMICFRS methodology, has also ensured that there is a clear and tangible line of sight through to on the ground Service activity. This has provided clarity of governance as well as supporting and evidencing strategic alignment. This will be highlighted to the inspectors during the Service's second inspection, beginning 28 February 2022.
- 2.4 It is therefore recommended that Members approve the continuation of the current policy statements, with the review date updated to February 2024.

3. Summary and key points

- 3.1 The eight Authority policy statements have been comprehensively reviewed as part of the biennial approach.

- 3.2 During 2020 these policy statements were aligned to the HMICFRS methodology, which has successfully provided clarity of governance and provides evidence of strategic alignment.
- 3.3 It is recommended that Members approve the continuation of the current policy statements with no fundamental changes.

February 2022