

Item 7

Towards a Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority

MEETING	Shadow Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	23 June 2015
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Draft Member /Officer Protocol
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To recommend the adoption of a Member / Officer Protocol
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	One of the key documents for the new Authority is a Member / Officer Protocol which outlines the expected behaviours from both groups. This report contains a draft protocol for members' consideration which results from a review of both existing protocols.
RISK ASSESSMENT	None
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	No separate impact assessment has been carried out in bringing forward this report.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	This report does not give rise to any new budget implications.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are invited to adopt the attached Member / Officer Protocol
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None
APPENDICES	(i) Draft Member / Officer Protocol. (ii) Dorset Fire Authority Protocol for Fire Authority Member / Officer Relations. (iii) Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority Protocol for Relationships between Members and Officers
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Lindsay Gowland, Clerk W&SFA Stephen Taylor, Monitoring Officer W&SFA

Introduction

With the new Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority assuming legal status in shadow format from 1 April 2015, it is critical that governance arrangements are fully considered, developed and scheduled in readiness for 1 April 2016. Whilst the governance arrangements of the current Combined Authorities and Services are similar in many respects, there are inevitably some differences. For example, both Combined Authorities have previously adopted Member / Officer Protocols which, for understandable reasons, do not have identical wording. It is, therefore, necessary to prepare a Member / Officer Protocol for adoption by the new Authority.

Draft Member Officer Protocol

Both current Protocols are attached and have been reviewed which has led to the production of a suggested draft for consideration by members. The intention has been to amalgamate the two Protocols wherever possible rather than draft a Protocol from scratch as the two Protocols are broadly compatible.

On that basis the attached draft Protocol (Appendix 1) was prepared for consideration by the Joint Committee of the two current authorities on the 4th June. At that meeting, the Joint Committee endorsed the draft Protocol with one amendment which has been made to the draft Protocol attached.

Matters for Consideration

Members are asked to adopt the attached draft Member / Officer Protocol.