

## WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	11
<b>MEETING</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	11 December 2014
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	Health and Safety Policy Statement
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Phil Chow, Brigade Manager
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	Members of the Authority are asked to NOTE this report and APPROVE the appended policy statement.
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	The Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority recognises the importance of Health and Safety in terms of compliance with the law and safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of all Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service employees and those who come into contact with our service. As such, the policy statement is renewed each year and makes a definitive statement as to the intentions with regards to policy, and acknowledges that responsibility for effective Health and Safety management rests at the very highest level.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix A – Health and Safety Policy Statement.

### Introduction

- 1 This report advises members that the Authority policy in respect of Health and Safety has been updated in line with statutory requirements.

### Background

- 2 The Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority recognises the importance of Health and Safety in terms of compliance with the law and safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of all Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service employees and those who come into contact with our service.
- 3 In 2009/10 the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out health and safety inspections at eight Fire and Rescue Services. Following these inspections the Service undertook a health and safety review which led to focusing on the operational core skills, aligned to key areas identified within the HSE report.

### Policy Statement

- 4 Over the last 8 years, the Chairman of the Authority has signed a Policy Statement, which is reviewed and revised where necessary on an annual basis.
- 5 It is recommended by the HSE and commonly held as good practice that an employer should make a definitive statement as to its intentions with regard to policy, and acknowledges that responsibility for effective health and safety management rests at the very highest level.
- 6 The attached appendix contains a renewed Policy Statement for the approval of members. The statement forms part of the Service's 'Health and Safety Manual', which is available on our intranet.

### Policy Implications

- 7 This accords with best practice in registering the Authority's corporate ownership of health and safety matters as an employer.

### Risks

- 8 Failure to own and operate a robust health and safety policy is unacceptable and could open the Authority and the Service to all manner of challenge, civil or criminal litigation through non compliance.

### HR, Equality and Diversity Implications

- 9 None.

### Environmental Implications

- 10 None.

### Financial and Legal Implications

- 11 None, excepting that failure to take appropriate and proportionate responsibility for health and safety issues may lead to significant financial and legal implications.

### Recommendations

- 12 Members of the Authority are asked to NOTE this report and APPROVE the appended policy statement.

PHIL CHOW  
Brigade Manager

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**Unpublished documents used in the preparation of this report:** None

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**Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Health & Safety****Authority Policy****Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority  
Health & Safety Policy Statement****Cllr Chris Devine**

The Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority recognises the importance of Health & Safety in terms of compliance with the law, safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of all Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service employees and those who come into contact with our service.

The Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority also recognises the good business sense that this commitment to the highest level of safety makes. Successful management of Health & Safety results in greater value for money and the efficient delivery of service to the public.

The Fire Authority recognises that Health & Safety is at the heart of its business functions and must, therefore, continually progress and adapt to change. The approach to Health & Safety must be based on the identification of hazard and control of risks, and include the training of its staff.

The Fire Authority is the body corporate on which the duties of the Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974 are placed. These duties will be implemented through the Chief Fire Officer who will ensure that the Fire Authority is aware of the resources and provisions required to carry out the Fire Service's Health & Safety Policy. The Chief Fire Officer will report regularly to the Authority on implementation and performance issues.

As there are distinct benefits to be gained from providing a safe and healthy working environment, the Fire Authority will aim to provide appropriate levels of resources for ensuring Health & Safety within the organisation.

Through the Chief Fire Officer, the Fire Authority is committed to adequate planning, monitoring and review of the Health & Safety Policy.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman, Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_