

## WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	8
<b>MEETING</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	25 September 2014
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	Amendment to Standing Orders due to Openness of Local Government Regulations (2014)
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Lindsay Gowland (Clerk)
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	Members are asked to agree the amendment to Standing Orders.
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	The Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014 allow any person to attend an open meeting and to report proceedings using any communication method. The Fire Authority's standing orders need to be amended to reflect this.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None

### Introduction

- 1 The Openness of Local Government Regulations came into effect on 6 August 2014. Part 2 of these Regulations pertain to the admission to and reporting of meetings of certain local government bodies, including combined fire authorities.

### New Regulations

- 2 The new regulations allow any person to attend a meeting which is open to the public and allow reporting of proceedings using any communication method, providing this is not disruptive.
- 3 The guidance notes state that no prior permission is required for filming or recording.

### Standing Orders

- 4 Wiltshire & Swindon Fire & Rescue Authority Standing Orders (as amended 21 June 2012) para 20 states that:

*"No person shall use audio or visual recording or recording equipment during meetings without the prior permission of the Chairman of the meeting".*

5 It is suggested that it is replaced with:

*“Any person wishing to report proceedings of the meeting, using audio, visual or any other means, must do so without causing disruption or distraction. Any person causing a disruption or distraction will be asked to stop by the Chairman and may be asked to leave the meeting.”*

#### **Additional Information**

6 If at any stage the public meeting becomes a private one, the normal rules apply and all members of the public would be asked to leave and to take any recording devices with them.

#### **Policy Implications**

7 There are no policy implications.

#### **Risks**

8 Failure to appoint a second Independent Person will leave the Authority vulnerable should there be a complaint against a Member.

#### **HR, Equality and Diversity Implications**

9 None.

#### **Environmental Implications**

10 None.

#### **Financial and Legal Implications**

11 There are no financial implications and the legal implications form the body of the report.

#### **Combination Implications**

12 There are no Combination Implications.

#### **Recommendations**

13 Members are asked to approve the amendment to Standing Orders as shown at paragraph 5.

Lindsay Gowland  
**Clerk to the Authority**

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#### **Unpublished documents used in the preparation of this report:**

None

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