



TOWN HALL  
SWANAGE  
DORSET  
BH19 2NZ

20<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear Cllr Knox

**Strengthening our Fire and Rescue Service: A Consultation by Dorset Fire Authority**

I refer to your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and the consultation document in respect of the above, which was discussed at a recent meeting of the Council.

During the discussion, Members acknowledged the financial difficulties faced by the Fire and Rescue Service and accepted that changes were necessary in order to strengthen the future outlook for the Service in Dorset. However, it was generally felt that rather than merge into a single Combined Fire Authority for Dorset, Wiltshire and Swindon, the Dorset Fire Authority should collaborate with Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority.

Members felt that by working together, there would be opportunities for increased collaboration or integration of some fire and rescue support, but local units could retain their working relationship with the local police and other emergency services. It was considered that local knowledge from local retained personnel often proved invaluable in an emergency.

In reaching their decision, Members expressed their appreciation of the excellent service currently provided by the Dorset Fire Authority, and whilst agreeing that changes were inevitable, were concerned that merging into a single Combined Fire Authority would not be beneficial for the Dorset service.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Rebecca Know  
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