



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 09

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	14 September 2016
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Fire and Rescue Authority Efficiency Plan
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For decision
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Prior to our combination both Dorset and Wiltshire were traditionally low spending authorities. They also suffered from being low funded authorities as well, receiving much lower than average funding from central government, compared to other fire authorities. To protect frontline services and be a stronger partner, both authorities agreed to merge. In December 2015, Parliamentary approval was granted to combine to create the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority. This plan charts the journey that we are pursuing to create a Service that has collaboration and efficiency at its very heart. This plan also serves to be used to support our application to secure a four year grant funding settlement.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	<p>The offer of four year funding allocations, if confirmed will provide increased funding certainty to 2019/20. Authorities who do not apply will be subject to the existing funding allocation process and would be potentially subject to additional reductions dependent on the fiscal climate.</p>
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that the appended Efficiency Plan is approved for submission to the Home Office in support of the Authority's application for the four year funding allocation.</p>
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority Paper -23 June 2016 - Item 12- Fire and Rescue Authority Efficiency Plans</p>

APPENDICES	Appendix A - Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority: Driving Greater Efficiencies – An overview of our current and future plans 2016-2020.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In the Finance Settlement 2016 the Government announced an offering for fire and rescue authorities of firm four year funding allocations starting from 2016/17 to 2019/20 to provide increased funding certainty and stability, in return for robust and transparent efficiency plans. It should be noted, that there is no absolute guarantee that the projected grant reductions that have been previously set will not however be revised irrespective of approved Efficiency Plans.
- 1.2 Authorities are not obliged to apply, but those authorities who do not apply will be subject to the existing process for determining the local government finance settlement. Any future financial allocations could be subject to additional reductions dependent on the fiscal climate and need for the Home Office to make further savings to reduce the national deficit.

2. Efficiency Plans and Value for Money

- 2.1 Following the meeting of the Fire Authority in June 2016, the Authority requested the Efficiency Plan when completed, be taken to the Finance and Audit Committee meeting of the 21 September for review, prior to the next Authority meeting originally timetabled for the 29 September.
- 2.2 Due to the need to advance the Fire Authority meeting to the 14 September, the Finance and Audit Committee will not be able to consider the efficiency plan, prior to the Authority approval for submission to the Home Office.
- 2.3 The deadline for producing an application for the offer and producing an efficiency plan is Friday 14th October 2016, after which confirmation of the offer will be made by the Home Office.

3. Summary

- 3.1 Members have already signed up to the Medium Term Financial Plan and the incorporated efficiency and value for money principles included at its meeting in February 2016. The Governments' offer of firm four year allocations provides certainty and will require efficiency plans to be produced in line with their requirements. The appended Efficiency Plan is recommended to the Authority for approval.

DARRAN GUNTER
Chief Fire Officer

14 September 2016