



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 23/29

MEETING	Finance & Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	26 July 2023
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Future Training Provision
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For consideration and note
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In September 2022 the Authority provided financial approval to improve the operational training facilities. During this meeting it was agreed that the project would be strategically overseen by the Finance & Audit Committee. Appendix A to this report provides Members with their first strategic highlight report, noting the progress of the project along with the budget position, an overview of the risks and mitigation and the expected next steps.</p> <p>Currently the project is going through the planning and procurement phase, which is expected to last until Spring 2024, when the construction phase then commences. Due to this protracted period of technical approvals, a strategic highlight report will be provided in December 23 and July 24 and thereafter on a quarterly basis for the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>Given the wider economic volatility and to ensure an accurate budgetary provision over the final designs, a comprehensive financial report will be brought to the committee in December 23.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	<p>The provision of operational training is a statutory duty under Section 7(2)(b) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. It is fundamental to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our staff and communities. The current facilities need significant enhancements to meet the</p>

	operational and welfare needs of our firefighters and their instructors. As a core statutory duty, the Authority must ensure it has sufficient and suitable training facilities for its firefighters.
COMMUNITY IMPACT	An impact analysis has been undertaken to support the development of the two training centres. A community engagement programme is in place for the project and is regularly reviewed.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	<p>An update on the budgetary position is provided in Appendix A to the report. Which highlights a forecasted increase from the original budget provision. This is largely due to the economic climate and some design changes to meet planning requirements.</p> <p>A comprehensive financial report will be brought to the committee in December 23.</p>
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>i) Review and note the progress of the project.</p>
APPENDICES	Appendix A – Training Centres Strategic Highlight Report
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Future Operational Training Provision. Fire and Rescue Authority. September 2022. An exempt paper in accordance with Section 100A (2, 3 & 4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
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