



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Item 24/09

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	8 February 2024
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Biennial review of Authority Policies
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For consideration and approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In line with good governance practice, the Authority reviews its policy statements on a biennial basis.</p> <p>These were last reviewed during the February 2022 Authority meeting.</p> <p>These policies set out the core activities that the Service should deliver and help support the delivery of the annual Service Statement of Assurance.</p> <p>Officers have completed a full review of the current eight policy statements and are recommending that, with minor wording changes only, no fundamental changes are required.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to have appropriate and robust governance arrangements may adversely affect the efficiency, effectiveness and reputation of the Authority.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report.

<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review and approve the eight Policy Statements set out in Appendix A.</li> </ol>
<p>BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Dorset &amp; Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service current policy statements, as linked below:</p> <p><u><a href="#">Asset management policy statement</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Corporate governance policy statement</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Financial management policy statement</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Health and Safety policy statement</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">People policy statement</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Prevention policy statement</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Protection policy statement</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Response and resilience policy statement</a></u></p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Revised policy statements</p>
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## 1. Background

- 1.1 At the inception of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority on 1 April 2016, Members established a number of policies to frame the Service. In line with good governance, these policies have been reviewed by Members during their February Authority meeting every two years.
- 1.2 Since 2017, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have held the responsibility for inspecting fire and rescue services against a defined set of judgement criteria.
- 1.3 In 2020, in the knowledge that HMICFRS inspection will be a continuous process for fire and rescue services, the Service aligned its planning, performance reporting and assurance arrangements to the inspectorate's methodology. This supported the Service to build the inspection process into business as usual. To positively support this realignment Members endorsed the alignment of their eight policy statements.
- 1.4 The realignment of the policies to the HMICFRS methodology, has also ensured that there is a clear and tangible line of sight through to on the ground Service activity. This has provided clarity of governance as well as supporting and evidencing strategic alignment.
- 1.5 Following the Authority meeting in February 2020, the approved policies were published on the Service's website.
- 1.6 The Authority policies were last reviewed and approved at the February 2022 Authority meeting.

## 2. Policy Statement Review

- 2.1 Consistent with good governance, the Authority's policy statements have been comprehensively reviewed by Officers to ensure they continue to remain appropriate and robust.
- 2.2 Following this review, only minor changes to the statements have been identified and these do not fundamentally alter the overall content of the policy statements. In summary these cover
  - Addition of one policy statement line to the Asset Management policy to provide clearer distinction between the alignment to different standards (ISO 55001) (statement lines 2)
  - Addition of a statement line to both Prevention (statement line 7) and Response & Resilience (statement line 9) policies to ensure consistency across Prevention, Protection and Response & Resilience in respect of integrated working.

- Minor wording amendments to the People Policy statement to reflect the embedding of the Core Code of Ethics.
- Minor wording changes to the compliance and assurance section to ensure consistency, and to reflect changes to the title of HMICFRS following the accession of the King and the work undertaken by internal and external audit.

2.3 It is recommended that Members approve the updated policy statements as attached in Appendix A, with the next review date set to February 2026.

### **3. Summary and key points**

3.1 The eight Authority policy statements have been comprehensively reviewed as part of the biennial approach.

3.2 Whilst minor changes have been recommended to a number of the policy statements, to support consistency and current approach, no fundamental changes have been identified.

3.3 It is recommended that Members approve the proposed policy statements in Appendix A.