



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 24/62

MEETING	Finance & Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	04 December 2024
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Future Training Provision
STATUS OF REPORT	For publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To note
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In September 2022 the Authority provided financial approval to improve the operational training facilities for the Service for future sustainability.</p> <p>During this meeting it was agreed that the project would be strategically overseen by the Finance & Audit Committee.</p> <p>Appendix A to this report provides Members with their fourth strategic highlight report. This provides the progress of the project, along with the budget position, and an overview of the risks and mitigation and the expected next steps.</p> <p>As Members are aware, the progress of this project is reliant upon the Service gaining planning permission for the two sites, both owned by the Service. The Devizes site was awarded the full planning permission in July 2023; however, there was a delay in receiving the position for the Weymouth site. Planning permission was granted to the Service, for Weymouth, in late October 2024.</p> <p>A revised timeframe for the delivery of the project is currently being developed, taking account of the Christmas period. It is expected that the Service will begin procurement during late January 2025.</p>

	The next strategic highlight report will be provided to the Finance & Audit Committee in July 25.
RISK ASSESSMENT	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 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 ASSESSMENT	<p>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.</p> <p>The two sites and proposed enhanced provisions for our firefighters will provide a future proofed and sustainable training facilities for our firefighters; to support the communities served.</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for purposes of this report
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	<p>The budget provision for the project was developed during the Summer 2022 and agreed by the Authority at their meeting in September 2022.</p> <p>Members are aware of the significant inflationary costs, impacting the country. Since estimating the initial budget provision, we have seen key construction materials and labour costs increase substantially.</p> <p>During October/November 23 an independent quantity surveyor supported the Service in undertaking the comprehensive review of the budgetary requirements. The revised estimated budgetary requirement has forecasted an increase from the original budget.</p> <p>In December 2023, the Fire Authority agreed to increase the budget and agreed approval for the delegation to the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to award contracts for works following the procurement process, subject to the overall project cost not exceeding an agreed value. The impact on the market, from the increase in National Insurance contributions for</p>

	<p>employers, is not yet fully known. However, this has the potential to increase tender bids received through the procurement process.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Treasurer may make recommendations to the Authority where underspend could be used to support the capital programme, to avoid additional borrowing.</p>
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>i) Review and note the progress of the project, as detailed within Appendix A.</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 (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
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