



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

2026

Item 26/07 Appendix 8

Station Review – Bradford on Avon Fire Station

This paper is not to be shared, reproduced or published without the
express permission of the Chief Fire Officer.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

MEETING	Members Working Group
DATE OF MEETING	10 September 2025
SUBJECT OF REPORT	Bradford on Avon Fire Station - Station Review
STATUS OF REPORT	For publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For decision
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>General</p> <p>As Members have requested, eight stations have been chosen to be included within their value for money review programme.</p> <p>These reviews are important as they are a potential means of addressing two main strategic risks facing the Authority, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to secure financial sustainability that ensures and maintains effective service provision (Strategic risk 6) <p>Note: Currently the predicted revenue budget shortfall for financial year 2026-27 is £1.38m rising to £1.76m in 2028/29.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to have a robust and financially sustainable on-call duty system to meet the needs of the Service (Strategic risk 9) <p>Dependent upon the decisions made by the Authority, the savings may be used to address the financial deficit facing the Authority or to offer an opportunity for alternative reinvestment to further improve frontline delivery, aligned to current and future risk and demand.</p> <p>The methodology, data sets and process undertaken in producing this paper, followed the approach approved by Members at the Member's Working Group, on the 5 March 2025.</p> <p>This station review</p> <p>This paper, and the supporting documents, provide Members with a review of Bradford on Avon Fire Station.</p> <p>This station has one fire appliance and a co-responding car, that will soon be removed following the South West Ambulance Service Trust's decision to withdraw from using fire and rescue services.</p> <p>The station currently has 12 on-call firefighters who provide 34.67% availability and typically respond to a relatively low number of incidents (120 average per year).</p>

	<p>The annual revenue cost of the station is currently £247k, with capital investment requirements in property and vehicle replacement of around £31k per year. The review has identified that the station has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low incident numbers. • Low level community risks on its station ground. <p>On the basis that Bradford on Avon Fire Station was available 100% of the time (which is a modelled response and not reflecting its current 34.67% availability), if it were to be closed there may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in response time of 2 minutes 19 seconds to property fires with a sleeping risk. • An increase in response time of 2 minutes 23 seconds to property fires with no sleeping risk. • An increase in response time of 2 minutes 4 seconds to road traffic collisions. <p>This report evidences that the closure of this station would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have relatively low knock-on operational impacts to surrounding stations. • Present an annual revenue saving of £247k. • Provide a reduction in capital investment requirement across the property and vehicle replacement of around £31k per year. • Present an opportunity for a one-off capital receipt for the sale of the station and site. • Provide an opportunity for savings or more effective and efficient use of resources in areas of greater community need. <p>As the Authority's professional advisor, the advice of the Chief Fire Officer is that this station should be the subject of public consultation and considered for closure by the Authority.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	<p>The Service has two strategic risks that this review seeks to mitigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to secure financial sustainability that ensures and maintains effective service provision (Strategic risk 6) • Failure to have a robust and financially sustainable on-call duty system to meet the needs of the Service (Strategic risk 9) <p>Failure to deliver changes that improve efficiency, effectiveness and productivity could undermine the reputation of the Service, with potential interest from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and wider stakeholders.</p>

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	<p>A comprehensive Stage 2 Impact Assessment has been undertaken, which includes community impact.</p> <p>This has identified a negative impact on communities with an increase in response times based on a modelled 100% station availability.</p>										
PEOPLE IMPACT ASSESSMENT	<p>A comprehensive Stage 2 People Impact Assessment has been undertaken for all affected staff.</p> <p>This has identified negative impacts with the loss of posts due to a probable lack of redeployment opportunities. It is estimated that the total redundancy costs are £19,376.</p>										
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	<p>A Stage 1 Impact Assessment has been completed.</p>										
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	<p>Station reviews present the Fire Authority with the opportunity to potentially reduce capital costs and ongoing revenue budget expenditure from key stations, to either investing in the critical risk and demand areas of the Service or provide an overall saving to support the financial deficit.</p> <p>A full review of Bradford on Avon Fire Station costs has been identified in the Financial Data section of Appendix A. The potential removal of this station will have the following financial impacts:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Amount (£)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Estimated annual capital budget savings</td><td>£31,239</td></tr> <tr> <td>Estimated annual revenue budget savings</td><td>£246,931</td></tr> <tr> <td>Estimated one-off redundancy costs</td><td>£19,376</td></tr> <tr> <td>Latest Station Valuation*</td><td>£360,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Asset valuation used within the Annual Statement of Accounts. A full valuation for sale will be undertaken should Members recommend consideration for closure to the Authority.</p>	Amount (£)		Estimated annual capital budget savings	£31,239	Estimated annual revenue budget savings	£246,931	Estimated one-off redundancy costs	£19,376	Latest Station Valuation*	£360,000
Amount (£)											
Estimated annual capital budget savings	£31,239										
Estimated annual revenue budget savings	£246,931										
Estimated one-off redundancy costs	£19,376										
Latest Station Valuation*	£360,000										
PROFESSIONAL ADVICE	<p>As the Authority's professional advisor, the advice of the Chief Fire Officer is that this station should be the subject of public consultation and considered for closure by the Authority.</p> <p>Members are asked to consider and approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bradford on Avon Fire Station to be included in the public consultation programme and considered for potential closure by the Authority. 										
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Plan 2024-28 Fire Cover Review 2023 Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-29 										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWG Decision Report – Station Closures Feb 25 • MWG Fire Station Review Report Template • MWG Stage 2 People Impact Assessment Template • MWG Station Review Methodology Paper • Over the Border Review • Resourcing and Savings Programme 2024-26 Framework • Station Review Mandate • Strategic Assessment of Risk 2023-25 and 2025-28
APPENDICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A – Station Review – Bradford on Avon Fire Station
REPORT ORIGINATOR	<p>Name: Cllr Kevin Small, Members Working Group Chair.</p> <p>Email: democratic.services@dwfire.org.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1. The fire and rescue authorities are legally required under the National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services (England) 2018 to produce a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). This requirement is met by the Authority through the production and approval of the Community Safety Plan (CSP).
- 1.2. Within the CSP 2021-2024, the Service made a commitment to develop and deliver a full and comprehensive Fire Cover Review (FCR) for the Service. As Members are aware this was undertaken in 2023.
- 1.3. The FCR supported the delivery of the CSP 2024-2028 and its associated commitments. Through this a number of changes to duty systems and fire appliance numbers have been so far delivered yielding improvement to fire cover, a better use of public money and savings of around £900k. The decisions associated with these changes has been undertaken by the Chief Fire Officer through delegated arrangements.
- 1.4. The Authority however indicated that potential fire station closures should remain a decision for the Authority and subsequently established a Members Working Group.
- 1.5. The inaugural Members Working Group (MWG) took place in November 2024. Through this initial meeting Members tasked Officers to deliver a review to identify the stations for review, using an agreed methodology and approach.
- 1.6. At their subsequent meeting on the 5 March 2025 Members approved eight stations for review, using the following agreed criteria:
 - **Corporate response impact:** The overall percentage contribution to all Service mobilisations assuming the appliance was available 100.00% of the time.
 - **Travel time to next station:** The travel time to the next nearest Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service station.
 - **Proximity to a wholetime duty station.**
 - **Non-removal of two neighbouring stations.**
- 1.7. During this meeting Members also approved the methodology, appendices documentation and report templates required to support a decision for each station reviewed. This report and associated appendices are fully aligned to this direction.

2. Bradford on Avon Fire Station

2.1. About Bradford on Avon Fire Station

- 2.2. Bradford on Avon Fire Station has one fire appliance and a co-responding car, that will soon be removed following the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST) decision to withdraw from using fire and rescue services as a means of delivering their co-responding service. The Bradford on Avon pumping appliance also provides a Water First Responder capability. A review is currently being undertaken to establish the future demand for Water First

Responder teams across the Service area, the recommendations of which will need to be considered as part of the decision to close Bradford on Avon Fire Station

- 2.3. The station currently has 12 on-call firefighters who provide 34.67% availability and typically respond to a low number of incidents (120 average per year).
- 2.4. Appendix A - Station Review of Bradford on Avon Fire Station, provides a full assessment of Bradford on Avon Fire Station's performance and existing response arrangements, against the modelled performance of the proposed response arrangements.

2.5. Financial analysis

- 2.6. Table 1, below, provides the annual revenue costs incurred at the station in the period April 2020 to March 2025. This includes the cost of drill nights and operational activity, premises costs including standard maintenance and cleaning, laundry and equipment costs.

Annual revenue costs incurred	
Year	Revenue Costs
2020/21	£167,183
2021/22	£173,147
2022/23	£252,029
2023/24	£255,759
2024/25	£260,101

Table 1: Analysis of the annual revenue costs incurred at Bradford on Avon Fire Station in the period April 2020 to March 2025

- 2.7. Table 2 provides a breakdown of capital cyclical maintenance costs incurred since April 2016 (each station has a full cyclical review every seven years).

Cyclical maintenance costs	
Type and Period	Cost
Cyclical maintenance	£43,583

Table 2: Cyclical maintenance costs incurred at Bradford on Avon Fire Station since April 2016

- 2.8. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the estimated annual cost avoidance that would be achieved indirectly across various support service departments should the station be closed by the Authority.

Annual cost avoidance if closed	
Department	Cost
Fleet maintenance cost	£7,426
ICT – licencing, connectivity, printing	£15,937
Treasury – financing cost avoidance	£33,983
Uniform	£4,928
ICT – hardware	£2,876

Table 3: Annual cost avoidance across support service departments should Bradford on Avon Fire Station be closed

- 2.9. If following public consultation, the Authority decided to close the station, the indicative annual savings, shown in Table 4 may be realised. It should be noted that some of the annual revenue budget savings will not be immediate due existing contracts for the provision of services and equipment but will be achieved once contract periods end and equipment is returned.

Estimated annual savings and cost avoidance	
Type	Cost
Revenue	£246,931
Capital Expenditure	£31,239

Table 4: Estimated annual revenue budget savings and capital expenditure cost avoidance at Bradford on Avon Fire Station

- 2.10. It is estimated that 99.70% of the stations operational activity will transfer to a neighbouring on-call station, so these costs will not cease and have been excluded from the estimated savings.
- 2.11. Table 5 provides an estimate of expected redundancy costs based on current station personnel.

Estimated redundancy costs	
	Cost
Estimated redundancy costs	£19,376

Table 5: Estimate of expected redundancy costs based on current station personnel at Blandford on Avon Fire Station

2.12. Asset ownership and covenants

- 2.13. The station land is owned by the Authority with no covenants in place. At the end of each financial year the Service must value each station for inclusion in the annual Statement of Accounts. This amount has been included for reference only. Table 6 provides a breakdown of the last full station valuation, which was completed in March 2025.

Latest station valuation	
Building Valuation	Land Valuation
£190,000	£170,000

Table 6: Breakdown of the latest full station valuation for Bradford on Avon Fire Station

2.14. The actual value which could be achieved via site disposal is likely to vary from this, and a full independent valuation of likely capital receipts will be established if a capital receipt is to be sought.

2.15. Crewing and operational resources

2.16. Current establishment for the station is 12 staff consisting of: one Watch Manager, two Crew Managers and nine Firefighters.

2.17. Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 the availability of the appliance was 34.67%. This equates to 52.25 hours of availability per week.

2.18. The current weekly contracted hours are 771.98 (64.33%) from a maximum Full Cover establishment (FCE). For reference a one pump station can utilise ten FCE or 1,200hrs per week.

2.19. Recruitment and retention profile

2.20. Between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2025 there were 13 starters and seven leavers. As of 1 April 2025, the average length of service of on-call staff at Bradford on Avon Fire Station was five years and 11 months.

2.21. According to the Census 2021, approximately 45.96% of the Bradford on Avon population were aged 15-years or under or aged 65-years and over. Therefore, only a small number of the population has been identified as eligible for recruitment to Bradford on Avon Fire Station. Should the station remain open this may impact future recruitment to maintain availability of the station's appliance.

2.22. Operational vehicles

2.23. The station has the following vehicles (Table 7):

Resource
Standard pumping appliance
Co-responder Vehicle

Table 7: Existing operational resources at Bradford on Avon Fire Station

2.24. The station currently has a Co-Responder vehicle however that is soon to be removed following SWAST's decision to remove co-responding from fire and rescue services.

2.25. Response performance

2.26. In line with the agreed methodology, the review has been modelled based on the assumption that all pumping appliances within the Service are 100% available. This removes any bias from historical appliance availability, giving the true demand and

impact for each station. Data on the actual number of mobilisations for each station, and actual appliance availability, are also included to ensure a full picture is considered.

- 2.27. Using modelling software, an overview of response performance, is provided against building fires with sleeping risks, other buildings and road traffic collisions for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024.
- 2.28. **At a Service wide level**, the data shows that the Service would achieve 8,635 (81.60%) of the corporate targets for **first appliance** response standard, before the closure of Bradford on Avon Fire Station. If Bradford on Avon Fire Station were to be closed 8,607 (81.30%) of the first appliance response standards would have been met. This would be a reduction of 28 incidents that met the Service response standard over the five-year period.
- 2.29. The data shows that the Service would achieve 4,703 (82.70%) of the **second appliance** response standards (thirteen-minutes for sleeping risk and fifteen-minutes for other fires) before the closure of Bradford on Avon Fire Station. If Bradford on Avon Fire Station were to be closed 4,694 (82.50%) of the second appliance response standards would have been met. This would be a reduction of nine incidents that met the Service response standard over the five-year period.
- 2.30. For modelled responses to the 67,561 incidents that occurred across the Service between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024, the current average first response time is 9 minutes 6 seconds. If Bradford on Avon Fire Station were to be closed, the modelled average first response time for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 would have been 9 minutes 8 seconds. This would be an increase of 0 minutes and 8 seconds.
- 2.31. For modelled responses to the 67,561 incidents that occurred across the Service between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024, 12,127 required two or more appliances on the initial response plan. The average second appliance response time to these incidents is 12 minutes 25 seconds. If Bradford on Avon Fire Station were to be closed, the modelled average second response time to these incidents for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 would have been 12 minutes 25 seconds, with no increase on the average second appliance response time Service wide.
- 2.32. **Impact on response**
- 2.33. This section reviews the change in pumping appliance mobilisations for the surrounding fire stations, based on Appendix A during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024.
- 2.34. The analysis only looks at the impacts on first and second pumping appliances and does not account for mobilisations for a third pumping appliance, or more, attending make-ups or standby moves, due to the complexity of modelling and increase in time to model all statistics that sit outside of statutory governance requirements.
- 2.35. Impacts on stations for additional mobilisations have been considered within this report, calculating the difference between mobilisations modelled on Bradford on

Avon Fire Station being available and mobilisations modelled on the closure of the station.

2.36. Summary of Response Impacts:

Incidents located where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would support the initial response N.B. this assumes 100% availability across the Service			
Incident Category	First Attendance	Second Attendance	Total
Property Fire with Sleeping Risk	23	7	30
Property Fire without Sleeping Risk	6	1	7
Other Fire	69	10	79
Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA)	255	41	296
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	23	5	28
Non-Statutory with Life Risk	44	9	53
Non-Statutory without Life Risk	157	25	182
All Incidents	577	98	675

Table 8: Number of incidents located where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would support the initial response as either the first or second pumping appliance during the five-year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 (assuming 100% appliance availability across the Service)

	Property Fire with Sleeping Risk		Property Fire without Sleeping Risk		Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	
Modelled Response inc. Bradford on Avon Fire Station	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance
Average Response Time (minutes:seconds)	10:05	12:44	9:57	13:05	10:47	13:00
Response Standard Achieved (incidents)	19 of 30 (63.33%)	18 of 30 (60.00%)	4 of 7 (57.14%)	6 of 7 (85.71%)	26 of 28 (92.86%)	Not Applicable
Modelled Response exc. Bradford on Avon Fire Station	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance
Average Response Time (minutes:seconds)	12:24	14:18	12:20	14:25	12:51	15:05
Response Standard Achieved (incidents)	4 of 30 (13.33%)	7 of 30 (23.33%)	2 of 7 (28.57%)	5 of 7 (71.43%)	19 of 28 (67.86%)	Not Applicable
Impact on Modelled Response Capability	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance
Average Response Time (minutes:seconds)	+ 2:19	+ 1:34	+ 2:23	+ 1:20	+ 2:04	+ 2:05
Response Standard Achieved (incidents)	- 15	- 11	- 2	- 1	- 7	Not Applicable

Table 9: Modelled response capability for incidents located where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would support the initial response plan during the five-year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024- Statutory Response (assuming 100% appliance availability across the Service)

	Accidental Dwelling Fires		Fire Related Injuries	
Modelled Response inc. Bradford on Avon Fire Station	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance
Average Response Time (minutes:seconds)	9:59	12:40	8:51	12:31
Response Standard Achieved (incidents)	18 of 28 (64.29%)	17 of 28 (60.71%)	1 of 1 (100.00%)	1 of 1 (100.00%)
Modelled Response exc. Bradford on Avon Fire Station	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance
Average Response Time (minutes:seconds)	12:19	14:08	12:31	12:31
Response Standard Achieved (incidents)	4 of 28 (14.29%)	7 of 28 (25.00%)	0 of 1 (0.00%)	1 of 1 (100.00%)
Impact on Modelled Response Capability	First Attendance	Second Attendance	First Attendance	Second Attendance
Average Response Time (minutes:seconds)	+ 2:20	+ 1:28	+ 3:40	No change
Response Standard Achieved (incidents)	- 14	- 10	-1	No change

Table 10: Modelled response capability for incidents located where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would support the initial response plan during the five-year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 – Statutory but recorded in other areas such as property fire with sleeping risk (assuming 100% appliance availability across the Service). There were no fire related fatalities during the review period where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would have provided either the first or second closest response

3. Impacts of closure

- 3.1. If Bradford on Avon Fire Station were to be available 100% of the time, the closure of the station would require responses from surrounding stations to 30 property fires with sleeping risk incidents over five years. This equates to approximately six incidents of this type a year. This would increase the modelled first in attendance time by 2 minutes 19 seconds and the second attendance time by 1 minute 34 seconds.
- 3.2. It should be noted that the Service has, and continues to struggle, to recruit and retain on-call firefighters at this station and it is therefore only available around 34.67% of the time. Bradford on Avon Fire Station were available and mobilised to 16 of these incidents over this five-year period.
- 3.3. If over the previous five years availability had been the same as this year it could have been available for ten of the 30 incidents.
- 3.4. If the station were to be closed it would require responses from the surrounding stations to seven property fires without sleeping risk incidents over five years (1.4 per year). This would increase the modelled first in attendance time by 2 minutes 23 seconds and the second attendance time by 1 minute 20 seconds. It should be noted however that Bradford on Avon Fire Station was only available and mobilised to two of these incidents due to its actual availability.
- 3.5. As with property fires with sleeping risk, if the appliance availability had been the same as the past year over the previous five years, the appliance could have been available for two of the seven incidents.
- 3.6. The closure of the station would require responses from surrounding stations to the 28 road traffic collision incidents over five years (5.6 per year). This would increase the modelled first in attendance time by 2 minutes 4 seconds. There is no response standard for second appliances at road traffic collisions. Based on the appliance availability over the last year the appliance could have been available for ten of the 28 incidents.
- 3.7. There were 24 modelled incidents over the five-year period falling within these categories where the first appliance attendance would not meet the response standard, should the station be closed. There are also 12 modelled incidents where the second appliance attendance would not meet the response standard should the station be closed.
- 3.8. The closure of the station would require responses from surrounding stations to the 28 accidental dwelling fire incidents over five years (5.6 per year). This would increase the modelled first in attendance time by 2 minutes 20 seconds and the second attendance time by 1 minute 28 seconds. Bradford on Avon Fire Station were available and mobilised to 14 of these incidents.

4. Impact on neighbouring fire stations (DWFRS stations only)

Summary of response impacts on neighbouring fire stations			
Fire Station	Current modelled number of response	Modelled number of responses with Bradford on Avon Fire Station closed	Impact (Over 5 years)
Trowbridge Fire Station	646	1291	+645
Melksham Fire Station	7	22	+15
Chippenham Fire Station	0	3	+3
Corsham Fire Station	22	34	+12

Table 11: Modelled responses of impacted DWFRS Fire Stations to support or provide resilience to the initial response plan to incidents during the five-year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024, located where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would provide the first or second nearest response, with and without availability of Bradford on Avon's Fire Station's pumping appliance

4.1. Should it be decided by Members to close Bradford on Avon Fire Station, over the modelled five-year period:

- Trowbridge Fire Station would see the highest increase of incidents with 645 (129 per year/2.5 per week) modelled responses, acting as the nearest or second nearest response to support or provide resilience. Trowbridge Fire Station's two appliances were available for 100% and 45.47% for the period between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.
- Melksham Fire Station would see an increase of 15 (3 per year) modelled responses to support or provide resilience. Melksham Fire Station's appliance was available for 4.89 % for the period between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.
- Chippenham Fire Station would see an increase of three (0.6 per year) modelled responses to support or provide resilience. Chippenham Fire Station's two appliances were available for 100% and 48.09% respectively for the period between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.
- Corsham Fire Station would see an increase of 12 (2.4 per year) modelled responses to support or provide resilience. Corsham Fire Station's appliance was available for 72.27% for the period between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

5. Operational resilience

- ##### 5.1.
- This section considers the existing on-call section at the nearest stations and the availability percentages of the nearest ten pumping appliances to Bradford on Avon Fire Station. The response time consists of the appropriate turn out time added to the travel time from station to station, based on the travel time matrix used within the Service.

Nearest pumping appliances to Bradford on Avon Fire Station				
Appliance	Fire station	Crewing model	Response time	Availability
P1	Trowbridge	Day Duty	10 / 13 minutes	100.00%*
P4	Trowbridge	On-Call	13 minutes	45.47%
P1	Melksham	On-Call	21 minutes	4.89%
P1	Corsham	On-Call	24 minutes	72.27%
P1	Westbury	On-Call	25 minutes	52.21%
P1	Chippenham	Day Duty	28 / 31 minutes	100.00%*
P1	Warminster	On-Call	29 minutes	92.70%
P2	Warminster	On-Call	29 minutes	26.54%
P4	Chippenham	On-Call	31 minutes	48.09%
P1	Devizes	On-Call	33 minutes	92.05%

Table 12: Nearest ten pumping appliances within DWFRS to Bradford on Avon Fire Station by response time to fire station (response time incorporates turn-out time plus travel time) with on-call appliance availability for period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. * Availability for Chippenham P1 and Trowbridge P1 have been assumed as 100% due to their day duty crewing model, however the on-call section were responsible for crewing Chippenham P4 and Trowbridge P4 during this period

Nearest pumping appliances to Bradford on Avon Fire Station from neighbouring fire and rescue services				
Appliance	Fire station	Fire and rescue service	Crewing model	Response time
P3	Bath	Avon	Wholetime	18 minutes
P4	Bath	Avon	Wholetime	18 minutes
P2	Bath	Avon	On-Call	21 minutes
P1	Frome	Devon & Somerset	On-Call	24 minutes
P2	Frome	Devon & Somerset	On-Call	24 minutes
P1	Radstock	Avon	On-Call	30 minutes
P1	Kingswood	Avon	Wholetime	32 minutes
P4	Kingswood	Avon	Wholetime	32 minutes

Table 13: Nearest pumping appliances from neighbouring fire and rescue services to Bradford on Avon Fire Station by response time to fire station (response time incorporates turn-in time plus travel time)

- 5.2. Travel distances from the Service's closest stations to Bradford on Avon Fire Station for the first three appliances mean that attendance times range from 10 minutes to 21 minutes. Although attendance times will vary depending upon the incident location as the times detailed in Table 12 are for station to station and include the appropriate turnout time.
- 5.3. Whilst over the border resources can be utilised (Table 13), the Service cannot rely upon these arrangements within our CRMP. Therefore, these resources are for indicative purposes only.

- 5.4. It is worth noting that the on-call appliance availability at the key surrounding stations, over the review period, was variable and may provide future challenges.

6. Current and emerging operational risk

- 6.1. The review has highlighted that, whilst there are small pockets of development identified, at the time of this review, there are no significant future developments proposed within the immediate area for the next three years.
- 6.2. Table 14 below, provides a RAG summary of the future developments for Bradford on Avon Fire Station area.

Summary of known future developments for Brad on Avon Fire Station area		
Type of development	Community impact	Risk to Service
Critical Infrastructure	N/A	N/A
Non-Critical Infrastructure	N/A	N/A
Housing Developments	+ 2 minutes 19 seconds	Minor
Commercial Developments	+ 2 minutes 23 seconds	Minor

Table 14: Summary of known future developments for Bradford on Avon Fire Station area

- 6.3. The modelled increase in response times for the first appliance in attendance has highlighted increases in the attendance times for both property fires with and without sleeping risks. These increases are considered, from a professional advice perspective, to be tolerable with an impact on response targets.
- 6.4. One existing operational risk has been identified within the Bradford on Avon Fire Station area risk profile that qualifies as a level 3 or higher risk site (which is defined as a medium, high or very high level of risk determined by the Services' Provision of Risk Information System). The highest level of risk identified is a medium risk and is considered tolerable from a professional perspective. (see section: Current and emerging operational risk (pg.52) in Appendix A).
- ### **6.5. Response capability to risk sites**
- 6.6. The closure of the Bradford on Avon Fire Station would mean that a primary response to the incidents at the risk sites, highlighted in Table 15, would transfer to a neighbouring station.
- 6.7. As there are neighbouring on-call stations, familiarisation times for these sites will need to be planned as part of quarterly training schedules. This will be a minimal impact on workloads for these stations, within the capacity of those stations.

Response capability to risk sites			
Risk Category	Number of sites Day (07:30-19:30) / Night (19:30-07:30)	Current sites reached in response standard Day (07:30-19:30) / Night (19:30-07:30)	Change in number of sites reached in response standard Day (07:30-19:30) / Night (19:30-07:30)
High Rise	0	N/A	N/A
Care Homes	6 / 9	4 / 4	-3 / -4
Hospitals	1 / 1	0 / 0	No Change
Wildfires	0	N/A	N/A
Heritage	51 / 57	35 / 35	-18 / -35
Thatch	3 / 3	1 / 1	-1 / -1
COMAH and MACR	0	N/A	N/A
Flooding	20 / 25	18 / 23	-1 / -4
High Risk Safe & Well	252 / 276	196 / 197	-124 / -197

Table 15: Modelled response capability for risk sites located where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would provide the nearest response. COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) and MACR (Major Accident Control Regulations).

- 6.8. Response times to these risk sites are likely to increase, should an incident occur. However, Table 15 shows at present that response standards would not be met on most occasions.
- 6.9. The data suggests the highest risk area in terms of site numbers is that of High Risk Safe & Well properties, which at present the station can only reach 196 (day) and 197 (night) within the response time. Heritage buildings impacted also show relatively high numbers in comparison to other risks. Should the station be closed, these will be an area of continued focus for our prevention teams and their activities.
- 6.10. As at present, should an incident occur in any of these risks, resources will be drawn from across the Service and our partners, as incidents for these risks are inherently resource intensive.

7. Cross border mobilisations

- 7.1. Cross border mobilisations are where appliances from one fire and rescue service are mobilised into another fire and rescue service area.
- 7.2. Table 16 provides the number of cross border mobilisations over the past five years.

Number of cross border mobilisations		
Fire and rescue service	Number of neighbouring service mobilisations into Bradford on Avon Fire Station area	Number of Bradford on Avon Fire Station mobilisations to neighbouring FRS
Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service	4	63
Avon Fire and Rescue Service	89	0
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service	1	0

Table 16: Number of cross border mobilisations between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024

- 7.3. Across the five years cross border resources were mobilised from Bradford on Avon Fire Station Area into Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service an average of 12.6 times per year. Neighbouring fire and rescue services were mobilised to an average 18.8 calls a year into the Bradford on Avon Fire Station area.
- 7.4. The closure of Bradford on Avon Fire Station has the potential to increase the likelihood of neighbouring services being required to respond into the Bradford on Avon Fire Station area, depending on the location of the incident. However, based on the number of mobilisations, during the review period, the future number of mobilisations is likely to remain relatively low.

8. Special appliances

- 8.1. Bradford on Avon Fire Station provided the following Special Appliances over the review period.

Mobilisations of Bradford on Avon Fire Station's special appliances	
Vehicle	Mobilisations
Co-responder Vehicle	134
Total mobilisations	134

Table 17: Mobilisations of Bradford on Avon Fire Station's special appliances during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024

9. Area profile summary and impact assessments summary

- 9.1. The Stage 2 Impact Assessments were undertaken to provide an overview of the current make-up of the staff at Bradford on Avon Fire Station, along with the demographic of the communities that are served by the station.
- 9.2. The key finding from this Impact Assessment identifies that 29.37% of residents in Bradford on Avon are aged 65 or over, which is higher than Wiltshire at 21.85 % and well above the national level of 18.41%.
- 9.3. This indicates that should Bradford on Avon Fire Station be approved for closure; the Service will continue to deliver prevention activities prioritising Bradford on Avon's over 65 population.

- 9.4. As highlighted earlier within the report, Impact Assessments have highlighted that, according to the Census 2021, approximately 45.96 % of the Bradford on Avon population were aged 15-years or under or aged 65-years and over. Therefore, only a small number of the population has been identified as eligible for recruitment to Bradford on Avon Fire Station. Should the station remain open this may impact future recruitment to maintain availability of the Bradford on Avon Fire Station appliance.

10. Station impact, realisation and cost analysis

- 10.1. Table 18 provides an overview of the impact and benefit if the decision was to close Bradford on Avon Fire Station.

Project analysis for Bradford on Avon Fire Station	
Project impact	Project realisation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Average response time increase of 2 minutes 19 seconds for first appliance to property fire with sleeping risk. 2. Average response time increase of 2 minutes 23 seconds for first appliance to property fire without sleeping risk. 3. Average response time increase of 2 minutes 4 seconds for first appliance to road traffic collision (RTC). 4. 24 (4.8 per year) first appliance mobilisations may not meet Service response standards. 5. 28 (5.6 per year) second appliance mobilisations may not meet Service response standards. 6. Overall, 52 (10.4 per year) mobilisations may impact first in attendance appliance mobilisations. 7. Overall, 13 (6.5 per year) mobilisations may impact second appliance attendance mobilisations. 8. Possible impact on surrounding stations: Trowbridge 645 (129 per year/2.5 per week), Melksham 15 (3 per year), Chippenham 3 (0.6 per year), Corsham 12 (2.4 per year) modelled responses. 9. The closure of the station would mean that a primary response to any of these incidents would transfer to a neighbouring station. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Estimated annual Revenue saving of £246,931. 2. Estimated Capital saving of £31,239 per year. 3. Additional mobilisations may support the motivation and retention of surrounding stations. 4. Stations will become familiar with additional risks. 5. With Chippenham and Trowbridge providing a day duty/on-call support this adds to the resilience in the region. 6. When compared to the DWFRS average, all incident average attendance time would be no increase of 0 minutes and 2 seconds extra if Bradford on Avon Fire Station were to be closed. 7. When compared to the DWFRS average, the two pump all incident average would not increase.

10. As mainly on-call stations, familiarisation time will take longer and will need to be planned as part of the quarterly training schedule.	
---	--

Table 18: Impacts and benefits of closing Bradford on Avon Fire Station

11. Decision rationale summary

11.1. Table 19 gives a summary of the key data used to support the decision rationale, including the current performance, proposed performance and the impact of the proposed change.

Decision rationale summary: Bradford on Avon Fire Station					
Criteria	Current	Proposed	Change	Commentary	
Demand and Risk					
Number of modelled incidents where station is closest	577	N/A	N/A	Other DWFRS stations would attend these incidents	
Number of modelled incidents where station is second closest	98	N/A	N/A	Other DWFRS stations would attend these incidents	
First Appliance Response Standard	Property Fire with Sleeping Risk (10-minute response standard)				
	10 minutes 5 seconds 19 met / 11 not met	12 minutes 24 seconds 4 met / 26 not met	+ 2 minutes 19 seconds	Additional 15 incidents would not have met response standard	
	Property Fire without Sleeping Risk (10-minute response standard)				
	9 minutes 57 seconds 4 met / 3 not met	12 minutes 20 seconds 2 met / 5 not met	+ 2 minutes 23 seconds		Additional two incidents would not have met response standard
	Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) (15-minute response standard)				
	10 minutes 47 seconds 26 met / 2 not met	12 minutes 51 seconds 19 met / 9 not met	+ 2 minutes 4 seconds	Additional seven incidents would not have met response standard	
	Accidental Dwelling Fires (10-minute response standard)				
	9 minutes 59 seconds 18 met / 10 not met	12 minutes 19 seconds 4 met / 24 not met	+ 2 minutes 20 seconds		Additional 14 incidents would not have met response standard
	Second Appliance Response Standard	Property Fire with Sleeping Risk (13-minute response standard)			
		12 minutes 44 seconds	14 minutes 18 seconds	+ 1 minute 34 seconds	Additional 11 incidents would not have met response standard

	18 met / 12 not met	7 met / 23 not met		
	Property Fire without Sleeping Risk (15-minute response standard)			
	13 minutes 5 seconds	14 minutes 25 seconds	+ 1 minute 20 seconds	Additional one incidents would not have met response standard
	6 met / 1 not met	5 met / 2 not met		
	Accidental Dwelling Fires (13-minute response standard)			
	12 minutes 40 seconds	14 minutes 08 seconds	+ 1 minute 28 seconds	Additional ten incidents would not have met response standard
17 met / 11 not met	7 met / 21 not met			
Station full cover equivalent (FCE) (Max 10)	14 members of staff providing 64.33 % of the required contracted hours for a one pump on-call station.			
Financial				
Financial (To include land ownership, covenants and MOUs if applicable)	£246,931 annual revenue budget saving £31,239 annual capital expenditure cost avoidance			
Impact Assessments				
People Impact Assessment – with mitigations	Negative impact due to loss of earnings and morale.			
Community Impact Assessment	Negative impact due to increased response times, mitigations are listed in Table 20.			

Table 19: Bradford on Avon Fire Station summary table

11.2. The impact of removing Bradford on Avon Fire Station may see an overall increase in response times, which may mean that the first appliance is waiting longer for additional resources. The Service impacts and mitigating the consequences posed by this increase, should Bradford on Avon Fire Station be closed, can be seen in Table 20.

Service impacts and mitigations			
Service Impact	RAG	Service Mitigations	RAG with Mitigations
Response time for first appliance at property fires with sleeping risk		<p>Continue Service community engagement and Safe & Well visits in Bradford on Avon, with particular focus on those aged 65 or over.</p> <p>Continue Service business fire safety engagement and inspections in Bradford on Avon.</p> <p>Continue recruitment to surrounding stations to ensure their appliance availability increases, with a focus on achieving five people available for each appliance.</p>	
Response time for second appliance at property fires with sleeping risk		<p>Continue Service community engagement and Safe & Well visits in Bradford on Avon, with particular focus on those aged 65 or over.</p> <p>Continue Service business fire safety engagement and inspections in Bradford on Avon.</p> <p>Continue recruitment to surrounding stations to ensure their appliance availability increases, with a focus on achieving five people available for each appliance.</p>	
Response time for first appliance at property fires without sleeping risk		<p>Continue Service business fire safety engagement and inspections in Bradford on Avon.</p> <p>Continue recruitment to surrounding stations to ensure their appliance availability increases, with a focus on achieving five people available for each appliance.</p>	
Response time for second appliance at property fires without sleeping risk		<p>Continue Service business fire safety engagement and inspections in Bradford on Avon.</p> <p>Continue recruitment to surrounding stations to ensure their appliance availability increases, with a focus on achieving five people available for each appliance.</p>	
Response time for first appliance at road traffic collision (RTC)		Local staff management, succession planning and recruitment.	
Response time for first appliance all incidents		Local staff management, succession planning and recruitment.	
Revenue Budget		Money saved or reinvested to meet Service risk and demand.	
Capital Programme (over 15-years)		Money saved or reinvested to meet Service risk and demand.	
Impact on surrounding stations		Local staff management, succession planning and recruitment.	

Table 20: Bradford on Avon Fire Station impacts and mitigations

12. Summary

- 12.1. To achieve a sustainable and balanced budget for future years Bradford on Avon Fire Station was shortlisted, at the MWG in March 2025, for a detailed review of its current response arrangements and performance, to enable Members to make a decision on its future viability.
- 12.2. Availability has varied from 46.50% averaged between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 to 34.67 % averaged between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.
- 12.3. Over the five-year review period, Bradford on Avon Fire Station responded to 306 (53.03 %) incidents where they were modelled as the closest appliance out of a possible 577 incidents, averaging 61.2 incidents per year, with 54.2 incidents on average per year being responded to by a neighbouring station instead of Bradford on Avon Fire Station.
- 12.4. Across all incidents over the five-year period Bradford on Avon Fire Station had a modelled 675 incidents (135 per year). However, they were actually mobilised 600 times to Service incidents over the same period (120 per year).
- 12.5. Should the station be closed, the average response times for incidents where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would be part of the initial response, and where there is a response standard, would see an increase by between 2 minutes 4 seconds and 2 minutes 23 seconds, for first appliance attendance.
- 12.6. Furthermore, the average response times for incidents where Bradford on Avon Fire Station would be part of the initial response, and where there is a response standard, would increase by between 1 minute 20 seconds and 2 minutes 5 seconds, for second appliance attendance, should the station be closed.
- 12.7. Annual revenue savings for Bradford on Avon Fire Station are £246,931 and annual estimated capital costs are £31,239. The latest land valuation costs are £360,000 with estimated redundancy costs totalling £19,376.
- 12.8. The review has not identified any significant developments planned within the next three years in the Bradford on Avon Fire Station administration area.
- 12.9. Analysis of the community demographics indicates that should Bradford on Avon Fire Station close, the Service will continue prevention activities prioritising Bradford on Avon's over 65 population, heritage properties and High Risk Safe & Well sites.
- 12.10. Bradford on Avon Fire Station currently has limited appliance availability, which has decreased over the review period. With limited operational demand, a small resident population and no current or likely future significant risks, this suggests the costs of resourcing the station outweigh the benefits currently provided.
- 12.11. With the above in mind the risk benefit analysis focuses upon resilience within the area. Whilst appliance mobilisation is low, all incident data suggests attendance times will be increased should a decision to close Bradford on Avon Fire Station be made.

- 12.12. The increase in response time risks that could be created by closure can be mitigated to a tolerable level through existing prevention measures, such as, Safe & Well visits, business fire safety inspections and a focus on recruitment and retention to surrounding stations.
- 12.13. The benefits of any closure will see a revenue and capital saving to the Service, which will support the future sustainability of the Service and, where appropriate, enable investment into areas of the Service requiring strengthening due to risk, demand and vulnerabilities.
- 12.14. Taking account of this report, and both supporting appendices, the advice of the Chief Fire Officer, as the Authority's professional advisor, is that Members are asked to consider and recommend that Bradford on Avon Fire Station should be the subject of public consultation and considered for closure by the Authority.

13. Next steps

- 13.1. The Member Working Group are currently reviewing all eight stations within their review programme. Once they have agreed which stations may be subject to public consultation, and approved a public consultation exercise, Members will report their recommendations to the Authority in February 2026.
- 13.2. It is anticipated that a final decision paper will need to be presented to the Authority in June 2026.