



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 26/11

MEETING	Finance & Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	24 February 2026
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Future Training Centre 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 an up-to-date 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>A timeframe for the delivery of the project is currently being finalised; however it is expected that Devizes will take 16 months to deliver and Weymouth 20 months.</p> <p>The next strategic highlight report will be provided to the Finance & Audit Committee in December 2026.</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 operational and welfare needs of our firefighters and their instructors. As a core statutory duty, the Authority</p>

	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 approved at the Fire Authority in June 2025.</p> <p>Following a comprehensive procurement process both sites came in within the agreed budget and contract award was approved by the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority and Chair of Finance & Audit.</p> <p>Throughout the project the budget and costs will be tightly reviewed, supported by an independent Quantity Surveyor. Any budgetary revisions will be taken to the Authority.</p>
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Review and note the progress of the project, as detailed within Appendix A.
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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