



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 26/28

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	30 June 2026
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Review of Authority Policies
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For consideration and approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	In line with good governance practice, the Authority reviews its policy statements on a biennial basis. These policies, support the core direction and objectives that the Service will deliver through its Community Safety Plan and supporting Service Delivery Plans. The policy statements were last reviewed at the Authority meeting in February 2024. Officers have completed a full review of the current eight policy statements and are recommending minor wording changes to better reflect the Service position and ownership.
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.

RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are asked to: 1. Review and approve the proposed policy statements as set out in Appendices A-H.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Current published Authority Policy Statements 2024-26, as linked below: <u>Asset management policy statement</u> <u>Corporate governance policy statement</u> <u>Financial management policy statement</u> <u>Health and Safety policy statement</u> <u>People policy statement</u> <u>Prevention policy statement</u> <u>Protection policy statement</u> <u>Response and resilience policy statement</u>
APPENDICES	Appendices A-H – proposed 2026-28 Authority Policy Statements
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Name: Jill McCrae, ACO - Director of Service Support. Email: jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk, Tel no: 01722 691070

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 every two years.
- 1.2 Following the Authority meeting in February 2024, the current Authority policies were published on the Service's website.

2. Policy Statement Review

- 2.1 Consistent with good governance, the Authority's policy statements have been comprehensively reviewed by senior officers to ensure they continue to remain appropriate and help drive the strategic direction of the Service.
- 2.2 Following this review, only minor word changes to the statements have been proposed to better reflect the current position.
- 2.3 The Policies have been updated to identify the Chief Fire Officer, through delegated authority, as the responsible person for enacting all Policies. As the principal officer with overall responsibility for the strategic leadership, governance and operational effectiveness of the Service, the Chief Fire Officer is the appropriate responsible person and will, where appropriate, delegate specific duties and responsibilities to members of the Strategic Leadership Team.
- 2.4 The exception is the Financial Management Policy, where responsibility remains jointly shared between the Chief Fire Officer and the Director of Financial Services in order to align with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- 2.5 Regular periodic reviews help support the focus of internal strategic planning and performance reporting and supports an auditable approach to these processes.
- 2.6 It is therefore recommended that Members approve the proposed Authority Policy Statements 2026-28, with the next review scheduled in 2028.