

MINUTES

Meeting: PEWSEY AREA BOARD
Place: Woodborough Social Club, Smithy Lane, Pewsey SN9 5PL
Date: 12 January 2015
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.25 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Kirsty Butcher (Senior Corporate Support Officer), Tel 01225 713948 or (e-mail) kirsty.butcher@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chairman), Cllr Paul Oatway and Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Vice Chairman)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Caroline Brailey, Pewsey Community Area Manager
Ian Gibbons, Service Director Law and Governance
Peter Binley – Head of Highways Asset Management
Karen Brown – Community Youth Officer
Blaine Wood – Business Support Team Leader
Kirsty Butcher – Senior Corporate Support Officer

Parish Councils

Burbage Parish Council – Joyce Turner, Steve Colling, Richard Lewis
Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council – Richard Long
Easton Parish Council – Margaret Holden
Grafton Parish Council - Annie Whitcher
Manningford Parish Council – Bernard Gaskin
Marden Parish Council – Peter Bell
Pewsey Parish Council – Terry Eyles, Peter Deck, Alex Carder, Curly Haskell
Rushall Parish Council – Colin Gale, John Rogers
Stanton St Bernard Parish Council – Joyce Hayle, Wendy Tarver

Woodborough Parish Council – John Brewin

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Matt Armstrong

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Mike Franklin

Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) (and Huish and Wilcot PC) – Dawn
Wilson

OPCC – Clive Barker

Develop – Sian Wood

Total in attendance: 45

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Area Board Members and the Wiltshire Council officers.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from:</p> <p>Carolyn Whistler – North Newton Parish Council Patrick Wilson – Vice Chairman PCAP</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>It was noted that Patrick Wilson’s name appeared in error under Pewsey Parish Council and it was agreed that this should be removed.</p> <p>Decision The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 November 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendment detailed above.</p>
4	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
5	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Board noted two chairman announcements circulated at the meeting and attached to these minutes, in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG Integrated Performance Management • Dementia in Wiltshire: The role of Healthwatch Wiltshire <p>The Chairman announced that Sian Wood from Develop would give a short presentation on the work of Develop under partner updates.</p>
6	<p><u>Wiltshire Police Precept Consultation - 2015-16 & Wiltshire Police - update</u></p> <p>Clive Barker, Chief Finance Officer from the Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner, gave a presentation on the policing and crime element of the council tax consultation taking place in January and February of this year. The</p>

Commissioner has a legal duty to consult with the public

Overall crime had been reduced by 3% from December 2013 – November 2014. Public confidence measured in the Spring / Summer survey was at 86.6% and victim satisfaction was at 87.7%; this is up to November 2014.

It was emphasised that HM Inspector of Constabulary had rated Wiltshire Police as Good in all categories, and that it is in line with national trends.

It was outlined that increases in costs in combination with a 5.1% cash grant reduction would result in an increasing budget spending gap in future years.

The Commissioner is consulting on a proposed increase to the police precept of 1.9%, or £3.06 per year. This was equivalent to 6p per week based on an average band D property. Even with this increase savings would still need to be made and it was intended that the force would work in partnership with councils and other police forces to deliver better services in single locations and single teams, purchasing and working smarter together.

Without the proposed increase the funding gap over the next 3 years is expected to amount to £13 million, but with the proposed increase it was forecasted at £11 million. This was after the level of savings already achieved had been taken into account.

The Area Board discussed the proposals and were advised that the consultation period is running from the 6th January to the 4th February. All were invited to read more about the proposal and give feedback via the Commissioner's website - www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

Questions raised included:

If there would be a shortfall what were the police not going to do?

- a. *The OPCC is trying to protect frontline services where possible. It was hoped that savings would be made through reviewing the structure of the force and by working regionally in force partnerships.*

Could you come back with another rise in 2016/2017?

- a. *The forecast of £11 million was based on continuing to increase the police precept by 1.9% over the next three years.*

Inspector Matt Armstrong followed Clive Barker and gave a verbal police update. He stated their resolution was to be more visible, and explained that performance was good overall. An increase in violence against the person had been seen, with 10 additional offences seen compared to last year. Officers were working hard with individuals and it was hoped that this would turn into a decrease.

Significant arrests had been made in relation to beauty spot thefts which had resulted in imprisonment and numbers had decreased on last year.

	<p>There was still an issue with burglaries targeting tools in both dwellings and non-dwellings, and also targeting dogs.</p> <p>Officers had been working closely with colleagues in Hampshire, with both intelligence and officers shared in a series of events. In November the team completed an exercise with Marlborough PCT, during which 83 vehicles were stopped. 22 fixed penalty notices were issued and one vehicle was seized after being found to have no insurance.</p> <p>Officers were still working on traffic related matters around Woodborough school and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the co-op.</p> <p>Questions raised were:</p> <p>Can patrols be stepped up in areas, as night patrols might put off vandalism? <i>a. We do patrol – if more resources are needed they can be called in</i></p> <p>Non-dwelling burglaries of tools in the Bedwyn area – how do we stop? Is it one or two people? Is it opportunistic? <i>a. In the Burbage area there had been 8 offences in 2 months, targeting heavy work tools. Analytical work was needed, and inroads were being made but we need intelligence – please contact us if you have information.</i></p> <p>It was noted that the Area Board were very pleased and lucky to have an excellent team.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Clive and Matt for attending.</p>
7	<p><u>Local Youth Network (LYN) Report</u></p> <p>Karen Brown, Community Youth Officer, discussed the work that the LYN has been doing within the community and their forward plan.</p> <p>They were currently working with a company called B8 from Swindon on a Pewsey media mash-up, working on an animation around road safety. Another taster day was due to be held on the 5th February, with further workshops being held throughout February and March on Thursday evenings in Pewsey. Monthly Saturday sessions would continue thanks to Simon Shaw and Pewsey Parish Council.</p> <p>On the 22nd January Moonrakers will be hosting 'The Zone' from 8pm-10pm. Pewsey Youth Club will be on Friday evenings from 6 February run by Holly Hillier and funded by Aster Communities.</p> <p>At its meeting on 15 December 2014 the LYN proposed to bring an ice skating</p>

	<p>rink to Pewsey to provide a positive activity for young people, promote the youth network and provide an exciting community engagement event for young people and families.</p> <p>Karen explained that the 14th February had been identified as the possible date. The event will run from the afternoon into the evening, and a 10m by 10m rink would be located outside the Co-Op, with additional activities available. Pewsey Parish Council were happy to support the event and had agreed to contribute £100.</p> <p>The Board was asked to approve the proposal for the community initiative involving the ice skating rink and to approve the budget of £1000+VAT with transport costs of £60. In response to a question it was confirmed that if approved the money would come out of the youth budget.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pewsey Area Board approved the proposal for the community initiative involving the ice skating rink • Pewsey Area Board approved the budget of £1000+VAT and transport costs of £60 to enable the booking of said event <p>The Chairman thanked Karen for attending.</p>
8	<p><u>Local Highways Investment Fund - 2015/16</u></p> <p>Peter Binley, Head of Highways Asset Management discussed the 6 year programme of investment fund in highways maintenance which started in 2014/15.</p> <p>Roads in the worst condition will be targeted by the investment and include minor roads as well as main roads. The standard timeframe for resurfacing roads was every 7 months; however recently, this had been every 10 months. The council had confirmed that highways are a priority and with a budget of £21million for highways maintenance per year and an additional £3million for bridge maintenance, this 6 year programme aims to significantly improve the roads and highways within Wiltshire.</p> <p>The Board was asked to note the progress being made on implementing road resurfacing and safety schemes in 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report; to consider the proposed highway maintenance schemes in the community area for 2015/16 detailed in Appendix 3 to the report and agree the list for implementation, and to suggest any sites for consideration for inclusion in future year's highways maintenance and resurfacing programmes.</p> <p>It was important to know as soon as possible as it could take up to 3 months to</p>

	<p>get road closure orders.</p> <p>Some questions raised were:</p> <p>With regard to the timescale for getting road closures, was it possible to get emergency notifications within a week</p> <p><i>a. The aim was for a managed programme across the year.</i></p> <p>Will The Crescent, Broadfields definitely be done?</p> <p><i>a. If it was pushed back it would be done as soon as possible</i></p> <p>What is the difference between surfacing and surface dressing?</p> <p><i>a. Surface dressing is when tar is laid down and chippings embedded using a roller, commonly used on rural roads. Resurfacing is replacing the entire road surface using black asphalt, commonly on main roads.</i></p> <p>The Area Board discussed the proposals, with some concern around priorities however after further discussion and consultation with the CATG members, the Chair confirmed that this should be agreed in the meeting to avoid any delay.</p> <p>It was noted that if any of the Parish Councils have specific roads they would like to be done this could be fed back to Peter Binley's team through the CATG.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pewsey Area Board noted the progress made on implementing road resurfacing and safety schemes in 2014/15 • Pewsey Area Board approved the list of proposed highway maintenance schemes in the community area for 2015/16, as seen in appendix 3 to the report, for implementation • Any sites for inclusion in future year's highways maintenance and resurfacing programmes would be suggested through the CATG <p>The Chairman thanked Peter for attending.</p>
9	<p><u>Nomination of Crown & Anchor Public House, Ham as an Asset of Community Value</u></p> <p>The Area Board was asked to consider the nomination of the Crown and Anchor Public House to become an asset of community value. It was noted that it was the only pub in Ham and was strategically located on the village green.</p> <p>When asked how to nominate for assets of community value it was agreed that Caroline would circulate further information.</p>

	<p>Action – Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>Pewsey Area Board agreed to support the nomination of Crown and Anchor Public House, Ham as an asset of community value.</p> <p>Further information regarding the community right to bid for assets of community value can be found via the link below:</p> <p>http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningcommunityrighttobid.htm</p>
10	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The following partner updates were given:</p> <p>(a) Wiltshire Police</p> <p>The verbal update provided by Inspector Matt Armstrong was reported under item 6 – Wiltshire Police Precept Consultation.</p> <p>(b) Wiltshire Fire and Rescue</p> <p>Mike Franklin circulated a written report which is attached to these minutes. Recruitment of firefighters in Pewsey is moving forward; there are new recruits at various stages of training. In November, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue agreed a proposal to merge with Dorset Fire and Rescue and there was currently an open government consultation on this proposal. PCAP had been approached with a proposal to buy equipment to enable fire safety advice to be targeted at canal boat users and dwellers.</p> <p>(c) Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>No update received.</p> <p>(d) Pewsey Community Area Partnership</p> <p>Susie Brew, Coordinator of the Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) drew attention to the update contained at page 29 of the agenda.</p> <p>The next meeting of the PCAP is to be held on the 30 April and not 26 February as stated in the written update. Attention was drawn to the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership with a meeting held on the 17th December to kick things off.</p>

The bus consultation finished on 10 December but results were not yet known. A working group would be convened to look at the consultation results when available.

The Network Rail train consultation is due to close on 9 January – PCAP had submitted a response.

(e) Parish Councils

No updates received.

(f) Pewsey Area Campus Team

The Vale Community Campus was launched on 15 September 2014. Plans have been submitted and will be determined by 5 February 2015. There had been 8 expressions of interest received from contractors but two did not fulfil the criteria. Tender documents were sent to 6 bidders and are due to be returned by the end of April 2015, with an appointment made around May/June 2015. The leisure centre was still open.

All were reminded that the old tennis courts behind Pewsey Vale Academy were now a multi-use games arena and those wishing to use this facility could register their interest at the leisure centre.

The campus team's priority was communication and they offered to attend parish meetings where wanted and possible. They are also working on back up facilities for the leisure centre for when it is closed for building the new campus.

(g) Good Neighbour Scheme

Mary Soellner has left and we are awaiting her replacement.

(g) Army Rebasing

The project was moving on with well prepared plans on estate design. A delay in Larkhill was due to work on the A363. More would be known about Upavon in 2015. Traffic concerns about the A345 and A342 had been emailed on and a response would be provided to the enquirer.

(h) Develop

Sian Woods gave a presentation on Develop and how the service can support and work with the local area. They provide support to non-profit organisations in Wiltshire. They can supply support to individuals or groups, and also advise on equalities and funding. They run training in areas such as social media, first aid, mentoring, measuring impact, food safety and marketing and offer networking opportunities and events for

	<p>the sector. They also run Volunteer Centre Wiltshire which offers help and information to support and maintain volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Sian for attending.</p>
11	<p><u>Urgent Business</u></p> <p>There was no urgent business.</p>
12	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Pewsey Area Board is scheduled for Monday 16 March 2015 at Pewsey Vale School</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.</p>
13	<p><u>Close</u></p>

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Paper 10 Integrated Performance Management Report
Officer Contact Details:	Wiltshire CCG Communications Department Wccg.info@nhs.net
Weblink:	http://www.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/our-governing-body/governing-body-meetings-in-public/governing-body-meeting-25-november-2014
Further details available:	David Noyes, Director of Planning, Performance and Corporate Services

Executive Overview

Pressure remains higher than anticipated across the system, which continues to present both an operational and financial challenge system wide. This is most evident regarding acute services and the number of cases attending A&E, which is presenting a challenge to the achievement of the 4 hour wait target. Some, but by no means all of this, may be attributable to increased referrals arising from NHS111; this risk is identified (and features amongst the CCG top 10 risks) and work is in hand with our provider to try and safely/appropriately manage the figures down. However, planned care is also running ahead of planned levels. The under delivery of planned activity levels and the consequent impact on the CCG's financial position feature high on the list of top 10 risks. While the CCG remains on track to deliver against budget and financial targets, doing so will require extremely taut management in the coming months. Across the CCG, in very close partnership with our colleagues in our major providers and individual practices, work is ongoing to identify ways to better manage the pressures. At a whole system level, it has been identified that gastroenterology is currently generating over performance and so a system wide review will be conducted. As previously reported, we remain concerned regarding the recurrent impact of the combination of high activity levels and the under delivery of some of our change projects, and this represents the highest risk to the CCG moving forward.

The CCG performance on the 18 week Referral to Treatment (RTT) standards for admitted care and non-admitted care are now at the national target levels in advance of the deadline of December 2014 as a result of a second tranche of additional non recurrent activity taking place. Additionally, the over 52 week waiters have been treated at all but one provider where there is a known specific issue which is being managed across a wider geography. There has been a 7% growth in the waiting list below 16 weeks which is partially explained by the continued focus on longer waiters, but which will require ongoing attention through local providers' weekly operational meetings.

Some additional investment has become available in order to underpin our Operational Resilience and Capacity Plans, which will be further reviewed at the System Resilience Group on 18 November 2014. The CCG has received additional funding to support season pressures with the local health and social care economy; from the national allocation of circa £700m Wiltshire will receive £4.297m. The CCG is making all of this funding available to support a number of service redesign schemes aimed at preventing inappropriate admission to hospitals and supporting earlier discharge when people have attended their local Emergency Department. The CCG Governing Body is regularly briefed in detail

Chairman's Announcements

and remains committed to the delivery of change across our system outlined in our 5 year strategy. Our Clinical Leaders are convinced that the direction of travel we have established is the best way forward and will ultimately deliver the improved outcomes we seek in an affordable manner.

In the last month we have been delighted to work alongside our close partners in Wiltshire Council, participating in a most successful peer to peer review process of health and wellbeing. Although we await the final report, all the early indications of the outcome of this work are both positive and encouraging.

Working very closely with our partners in Wiltshire Council, some early indications of priority areas to focus upon are becoming clear from the 100 day challenge, which was an internal initiative aimed at galvanising action within our Better Care Plan. These include system wide 7 day working, improved collaboration within community teams and consistent Discharge planning. Elsewhere, and as previously reported, encouraging progress is being made in our 3 demonstrator sites who are piloting the development of integrated teams in Calne, Bradford on Avon/Melksham and Salisbury. We aspire to the creation of 20 such teams across the County, and notwithstanding the 3 pilot sites, the remaining 17 areas are also starting to come together. Pleasingly, our partners in GWH are starting to deliver the additional workforce required to bring much of this to life. Equally, work continues as we take forward key programmes of work regarding the re-procurement of community services, which will form the foundation stone for the delivery of our strategic vision. We have also made good progress with validating the plans for utilising the Transforming Care of Older people funding, to deliver enhanced capacity and capability for the care of our older people in community settings, at or close to their own homes. Working closely with Wiltshire Council, we have now launched a public consultation on the future of specialist dementia hospital care. The outcome of which will help to mitigate the sixth risk in the CCG risk register top ten.

The CCG's Commissioning Intentions for next year are complete, and they have been sent to our providers, with a copy also posted on our web site. We are now well into our detailed operational planning for next year, and have had a valuable meeting with colleagues from NHS England whose support as we continue our journey should be invaluable. Equally, we are making early preparations for the contracting round which will commence early in the New Year.

Chairman's Announcements

Subject: Dementia in Wiltshire: The Role of Healthwatch Wiltshire

Officer

Contact 01225 434218 ~ info@healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk ~ www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk

Details:

Summary of announcement:

Healthwatch Wiltshire (HWW) is your local champion for health and social care. We are here to listen to the voices of local people and use this to influence commissioners and providers of services.

Monitoring dementia services

HWW has brought together local charities in Wiltshire to form a partnership that will monitor and support the new Wiltshire dementia strategy.

This innovative new partnership includes representatives from Alzheimer's Support, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK Wiltshire, Age UK Salisbury District, Carer Support Wiltshire and Swan Advocacy.

Partners will gather feedback independently through a variety of means and then share findings at regular partnership steering group meetings. HWW will bring together at least 100 local people across the county to monitor how services are working. The '100' will be asked to share their experiences of local dementia services. HWW will gather together these experiences and share these with the partnership as well as commissioners and providers of services. The aim is to make sure that the voices of local people are 'centre stage'. In addition to the workshops, HWW will offer people the opportunity to take part in a one-to-one interview with a member of HWW staff or a trained volunteer.

The workshops will be taking place on:

- **Thursday 22 January 2pm – 4pm at Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hays, Malmesbury SN16 9BZ**
- **Wednesday 28 January 2pm – 4pm at The Corn Exchange, St. Johns Street, Devizes SN10 1BN**
- **Wednesday 4 February 2pm – 4pm at The Methodist Church, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF**
- **Thursday 12 February 2pm – 4pm at The Laverton, Bratton Road, Westbury BA13 3EN**

Specialist dementia hospital care in Wiltshire

NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is consulting on the permanent location of specialist dementia hospital care. To help them make a decision about where this care should be, they want to hear what local people think. HWW is independently facilitating the consultation. This will include public meetings, talking to people in service user groups, inviting people to complete a questionnaire, or simply inviting people to talk to us and tell us what they think.

The public meetings will be taking place on:

- **Tuesday 13 January from 10 am – 12 midday at The Corn Exchange, St. Johns Street, Devizes SN10 1BN**
- **Tuesday 20 January from 2- 4 pm at The Methodist Church, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF**

Online version of the questionnaire: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/dementiastrategyconsultation-2>

To book a place please contact Helen West on 01225 434218 ~ helen.west@healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk ~ www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk

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**Wiltshire
Fire & Rescue
Service**

Briefing report for Amesbury; Pewsey & Tidworth Area Boards



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has grouped together neighbouring fire stations into station hubs, to work more effectively and efficiently, supporting each other to improve the service we provide.

Responding to incidents:

Your Area Board's / Locality's communities immediate emergency response will be provided by staff at these stations and where necessary additional support from staff and specialist equipment from other stations.

Prevention work:

Staff from other departments also provide the community with specialist services giving fire safety and road safety advice and interventions such as talks and visits.

Protection work:

Specialist staff provide expert knowledge, give advice and undertake enforcement action working very closely with the planning authorities to keep communities safe from fire.

In an **emergency dial 999**, for other non urgent matters you can either visit our website: www.wiltfire.gov.uk or contact the following people:

	<u>Manager / Department</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>email</u>
Operational matters	Station Manager - Jason Underwood, Amesbury, Pewsey, Ludgershall Station Hub	07515 191951	jason.underwood@wiltfire.gov.uk
Partnership and community engagement issues	Michael Franklin (Wiltshire Council Area)	07919 306037	mike.franklin@wiltfire.gov.uk
Home fire safety visits and for talks and visits	Community safety department	0800 389 7849	www.wiltfire.gov.uk and then complete the on line request

Message from Station Manager Jason UNDERWOOD

Operational Response

During November and December 2014 there were no significant incidents to report in which an emergency response was required.

Community Partnership Working

Throughout the reporting period fire fighting staff has been very involved with the Environment Agency (EA) with particular regard to Flood Prevention. Having taken into account the particular flooding issues that affected many communities a proactive approach was taken towards the risk. Following meetings with representatives from the Environment Agency Wilts FRS staff undertook the following interventions:

3rd December 2014 - Community Safety Day (Flooding information) to the Tilshead/Chitterne/Shrewton area.

5th December 2014 - Flood working Day in Pewsey/Upavon/Netheravon/Durrington. EA leaflets handed out whilst visiting affected areas properties including; *Flooding from groundwater; practical Advice to help reduce the impact from groundwater, Practical guides to prepare your business from flooding, Personal Flood/Emergency Plan.*(River Avon)

10th December 2014 - Flood Working Day in Tilshead/Chitterne/Shrewton involving EA. EA leaflets handed out whilst visiting affected areas properties including; *Flooding from groundwater; practical Advice to help reduce the impact from groundwater, Practical guides to prepare your business from flooding, Personal Flood/* (River Till)]

Whilst visiting these communities fire crews also visited thatched properties to talk/give advice to owners/occupiers/tenants with particular regard Fire Safety.

On the 15th December Watch Manager Rattigan, representing the Wilts FRS attended a Community Area Local Youth Network Meeting at Bouverie Hall, Pewsey working with the Community Youth Officer/Integrated Youth Service.

School Liaison

Crews and members of the Wilts FRS School Education team have carried out visits to various local schools and playgroups within the community during the November/December period;

17th November 2014 - Larkhill Primary School – Key Stage (KS)1&2 Year (Yr)

20th November 2014 - Fighledean St. Michaels Primary School – KS 1 Yr 2 ‘ The Great

Fire of London’ 24th November 2014 - Visit to Kiwi Playgroup, Bulford Garrison – KS 1&2

Army Liaison

On 8 th December the Partnerships & Community Engagement manager attended a Health Fair hosted by 6 REME, Delhi Barracks, Tidworth where fire safety amongst army personnel was promoted.

Significant step taken on road to combination

The Combination Order to bring together Wiltshire & Swindon Combined Fire Authority and Dorset Fire Authority has been submitted to the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP. Subject to a period of consultation, and the Secretary of State finding no need for an enquiry into the merits of merger, it is expected that the Combination Order will be made in February 2015. The required legislation will then be passed by the end of March 2015, allowing the new

Fire Authority to come into being on 1 April 2016.

At meetings of the two existing Fire Authorities earlier this month, 'Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority' was adopted as the name of the new administrative body.

A key concern raised during the public consultation process was that there should be parity in the number of Elected Members representing Wiltshire and Swindon, and those representing Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, and this has been resolved quite amicably. The new Fire & Rescue Authority will have 30 members, with 15 from each geographical county – although this can be reviewed by the new body in the future.

Shadow governance arrangements for the transition to the new Authority have also been agreed, with defined Terms of Reference adopted by Elected Members in both Wiltshire and Dorset.

At the heart of the new combined Fire & Rescue Authority will be a purpose-built community safety centre, which will also act as a 'virtual headquarters'.

The Government has granted £5.54 million from its Fire Transformation Fund to support the construction of this facility, with money also available to align ICT between the existing Services and support other transition costs.

A project team is now scoping potential sites and we are also liaising with partners, including other emergency services and local authorities, to see what additional benefits can be realised through this scheme.

Michael Franklin

Partnerships & Community Engagement Manager(Wiltshire Council area)

January 2015

