

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/19/20
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	8 November 2019
SUBJECT OF REPORT	AUTHORITY MEETING TO CONSIDER SERVICE DELIVERY OPERATING MODEL CONSULTATION RESULTS
LEAD OFFICER	Director of Governance & Digital Services
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p><i>That:</i></p> <p><i>(a) the additional meeting of the Authority scheduled for 18 December 2019 be cancelled because of the proximity to the snap General Election to be held on 12 December 2019; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) in accordance with Standing Orders, it be noted that the Clerk will identify a new date for the additional meeting of the Authority to be held early in the new year.</i></p>
SUMMARY	<p>This item is raised in accordance with Section s100B(3)(b) and 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act.</p> <p>The Authority has previously been advised that because of the significant response received to the Service Delivery Operating Model consultation, more time would be required for Opinion Research Services to undertake the independent analysis of the consultation responses to inform the final report, which would then be compiled by officers for submission to the Authority. Consequently, in accordance with Standing Order 9, an additional Authority meeting was scheduled for 18 December 2019 to consider the consultation outcome.</p> <p>However, since that time and since the publication of the agenda for this meeting of the Authority, a snap General Election has been called for 12 December 2019. While the Pre-Election Period rules (known as Purdah) are not strictly applicable the Authority's consideration of the consultation proposals, given the potential for significant political issues arising from consideration of controversial proposals in such close proximity to a General Election, an Authority meeting within this period would have been avoided had the date of the General Election been known at the time the date of the additional meeting of the Authority was set. Consideration also has to be given to Authority Member's availability to give full consideration to the highly significant issues raised by the consultation during the days running up to (and immediately following) the General Election.</p> <p>Additionally, the Service has received representations from representative bodies expressing concerns about the potential impact on staff welfare arising from any decisions on the consultation proposals being taken a few days prior to the Christmas break.</p>

	<p>Taking account of these issues and having consulted with the Chair of the Authority, it is proposed that the Authority cancels its meeting scheduled for 18 December 2019. If the Authority is minded to agree this then, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Clerk will identify a new date for the additional meeting of the Authority early in the new year.</p> <p>If the Authority agrees to the cancellation of the additional meeting of the Authority on 18 December 2019, it is proposed that the date reverts to a Members Forum (as per the original calendar of meetings) and that the additional Members Forum meeting scheduled for Tuesday 26 November 2019 is cancelled.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS (ERBA)	N/A
APPENDICES	Nil.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	Nil.

MIKE PEARSON
Director of Governance & Digital Services