



**REPORT TITLE: REVIEW OF SEVERN PARK JOINT TRAINING CENTRE**

<b>Scrutiny meeting</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
<b>Chair</b>	
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	Mark Preece
<b>Item Type</b>	Information
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide an update regarding the future of operational training provisions in GFRS, following the conclusion of the joint training centre PFI contract at Severn Park.
<b>Recommendations/ Action sought</b>	N/A – Information Only
<b>Forthcoming Decisions</b>	Future decision regarding how GFRS intend to fulfil their operational training obligations will be required at Property Board in July 2023.
<b>Background Documents</b>	Fire SLT report (28.3.22) ' <i>Future Training Provisions for GFRS following the conclusion of the Severn Park JTC contract.</i> '
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Information</b>	Adam Openshaw (GFRS), Rob Barnes (AMPS).

## Report Body

In April 2003, the Joint Training Centre (JTC), known as 'Severn Park' opened to provide a collaborative training solution for GFRS, Avon FRS and Somerset (now Devon and Somerset) FRS. The centre is located in Avonmouth, Bristol (which outside of GFRS's geographical area).

The training centre was financed via a Private Finance Initiative (PFI), which is currently administered by Babcock International. The operational service agreement spans for a 25 year term. It was signed on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003, and terminates on the **1<sup>st</sup> April 2028**. This means that GFRS need to secure future arrangements for training its operational firefighters and commanders' post April 2028.

A project team has been established between GFRS and AMPS.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 the project team received confirmation from the Joint Management Board (JMB) of Severn Park that GFRS would not incur any cost for walking away from the PFI contact at the end of the 25 year term, should another of the 3 services decide to take on the centre as the sole occupier. This is relevant, because AVON FRS have expressed a tentative desire to take over the centre. If all 3 services decided to leave, there would be a cost incurred to decommission the facility and return the site to Bristol City Council as brownfield.

Following confirmation that GFRS can leave the contract without financial penalty, a fully costed options appraisal (which considers all potential options) for the future of GFRS's operational training provision is being put together for presentation at Property Board in July 2023.