



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at 10:00am
on 28 November 2024 at Trowbridge Fire Station, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge.**

Members present:

Cllr Kelvin Nash (Chair)

Cllr Daniel Cave

Cllr Pip Ridout

Cllr Paul Sample

Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Director of Community Safety, Andy Cole

Area Manager (AM), Marc House

Area Manager (AM), Stuart Gillion

Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

24/25 Welcome

24/25.1 Cllr Kelvin Nash welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

24/26 Apologies

24/26.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Dalton and Cllr Paul Oatway.

24/27 Code of Conduct, Declaration of Interests

24/27.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

24/28 Public Questions

24/28.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

24/28.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no public questions.**

24/29 Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) meeting on 5 September 2024

- 24/29.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
- 24/29.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 24/30 Action Progress report**
- 24/30.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting held on 5 September 2024 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.
- 24/30.2 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.**
- 24/31 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 2**
- 24/31.1 Area Manager (AM) Stuart Gillion presented to Members the performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 2, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee:
- Priority 1** Help you to make safer and healthier choices
Priority 2 Protect you and the environment from harm, and
Priority 3 Be there when you need us.
- A link to the presentation can be found [here](#)
- 24/21.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 24/31.3 AM Gillion highlighted the value of partnership working, including the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership, the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership, the Prevent Board, the Clear, Hold, Build Partnership, the Chippenham Community Hub and the Local Resilience Forums. Mention was made of the station risk profiles that were being used by operational crews to better support communities by providing an understanding of the demands, risks and challenges at a local level.
- 24/31.4 It was noted that on-call availability stood at 54.8%. Wholetime appliances was 98.3%, which was a good figure and within target.
- 24/31.5 The percentage of operational competence in date of staff was good and in line with corporate targets.
- 24/31.6 AM Gillion drew attention to the social media activity which was aligned to the National Fire Chiefs Council campaigns, for example regarding chimney fire safety and gas safety weeks. The key prevention safety messages were shared across various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.com. A total of 262,238 engagements were seen across all platforms. The most popular prevention post on Next Door was during gas safety week and 47,259 people viewed and engaged with this post. The most

viewed post on Facebook was regarding e-bikes and charging batteries, which reached 12,495 people.

- 24/31.7 Details were provided on road safety events, including attending Calne Bike Meet, and also the number of education inputs in quarter 2. In the quarter, 767 children and young people had received educational input, comprising 535 via their main education provider, 232 via pre-schools, nurseries, children's groups and ad-hoc engagements. The officers stated that school visits and virtual education packages were targeted on a risk-based approach to communities. Schools were now ranked based upon the number of accidental dwelling fires with children living at homes within the station's area, the response time and the index of deprivation data taken into consideration. There were six open Fire Safety Intervention referrals (previously Firesetters) in the quarter and one case had been closed.
- 24/31.8 AM Gillion reported that during the quarter 518 Safe & Well Visits were undertaken, an increase from the 368 visits in the corresponding period in the previous year. There had been 377 attempted interventions. A total of 47 Safeguarding referrals were received. It was noted that the newly appointed partnerships officer was assisting in improving referrals.
- 24/31.9 The number of accidental dwelling fires in quarter 2 was 30 compared with 41 in the same quarter in 2023, with a total of 59 year to date.
- 24/31.10 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 24/31.11 AM Gillion reported that operational crews had made 171 Business Fire Safety Checks across the Service, with 77 of these being in Wiltshire. In reply to a question from the Chair, the officers explained how Business Fire Safety Checks were carried out between staff at wholetime stations, who undertook lower risk inspections, and specialist staff who concentrated on premises with a higher risk rating. Building regulation consultations and licensing consultations continued to be monitored.
- 24/31.12 AM Gillion highlighted that the 81 automatic fire alarms attended in non-domestic premises was an increase from 63 in the previous quarter. The Service had revised policy to extend the call challenge to 24 hours (from 8:00am to 6:00pm previously).
- 24/31.13 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**
- 24/31.14 The average response times were 10.48 minutes for sleeping risk first pump, 15.00 for sleeping risk second pump, 11.27 minutes for other buildings first pump 16.34 minutes for other buildings second pump and 12.40 minutes for road traffic collisions first pump. In reply to a question from Cllr Paul Sample, the officers explained the response times for road traffic collisions first pump.
- 24/31.15 Appliance availability was also discussed, which was 98.3% for wholetime and 54.8% for on-call for quarter 2. The Chair requested that future reports include narrative to explain the context of these figures and comparisons to make them meaningful and consistent between Local Performance and Scrutiny

Committees. There had been a slight decrease in availability for on-call compared with the previous quarter and the actions being taken to improve on-call availability were explained. Cllr Daniel Cave enquired if the on-call availability at 54.8% could potentially be problematic if Trowbridge and Chippenham went from a day crewing system and moved on to a day duty system, as proposed in the Resourcing and Savings Programme. The officers replied that the figure was an average across Wiltshire and the stations mentioned were being studied on an individual basis. In reply to a question from Cllr Sample, the officers stated that the presentation report was an overview and in-depth detail on availability was contained within the dashboard, which was available for Members to access.

24/31.16 AM Gillion reported that there had been no fire deaths during the period, with no incidents with the potential for further fire deaths awaiting a Coroner's verdict. Details were provided on the Operational Effectiveness Database (OED), which was to evaluate and improve operational performance. Information was also provided on the multi-agency training exercises attended.

24/31.17 Members noted the summary of incidents presented at the meeting.

24/31.18 **Demand Summary**

24/31.19 The Key Performance Indicators for the quarter were explained to the Committee. Attendance was for 742 false alarms attended; 59 accidental dwelling fires; 136 deliberate fires (primary and secondary) and 677 special service incidents attended year to date.

24/31.20 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

24/31.21 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2.

24/32 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

24/32.3 The officers replied to Members' questions in respect of the Service's response to flooding following Storm Bert. The response included placing the Water Response Team on alert and locating them to high-risk areas as required to balance resources.

24/33 Date of Next Meeting

24/33.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 27 February 2025 at 10:00am the Training & Development Centre, Hopton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 10:45

Signed: _____