



## **DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 August 2022, 10.00am at Poole Fire Station, Poole.**

#### Members present:

Cllr Toby Johnson (Chair)  
Cllr Steve Baron  
Cllr Malcolm Davies  
Cllr Paul Hilliard

#### Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole  
Group Manager (GM), Stuart Gillion  
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

#### **22/20 Election of Chair**

- 22/20.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Andy Cole opened the meeting. He asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Johnson was nominated by Cllr Baron and seconded by Cllr Davies. Cllr Johnson was duly elected as Chair.
- 22/20.2 **RESOLVED: That Cllr Johnson be elected Chair of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee.**

#### **22/21 Welcome**

- 22/21.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members. The Chair also welcomed to the meeting Michael Tomlinson, Member of Parliament for Mid Dorset and North Poole.

#### **22/22 Apologies**

- 22/22.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Millie Earl.

- 22/23 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business**
- 22/23.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.
- 22/24 Public questions**
- 22/24.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.
- 22/24.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted there were no public questions.**
- 22/25 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 May 2022**
- 22/25.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 22/25.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 2/26 Action progress report**
- 22/26.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 25 May 2022 and there were none outstanding from previous meetings.
- 22/26.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted there were no actions outstanding.**
- 22/27 Performance monitoring and briefing**
- 22/27.1 Group Manager (GM), Stuart Gillion presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 1, 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](#).

22/27.2     **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

22/27.3     GM Gillion reported that wholetime crews were now conducting business fire safety checks and low risk fire safety audits of small businesses. This allowed the Fire Safety Team to focus their expertise on higher risk properties. In reply to a question from Cllr Paul Hillard, if Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) were targeted for inspection by the Fire Safety Team, GM Gillion confirmed that this was the case under the Building Safety Act 2022, as HMO's presented a higher risk. The Service was notified of HMOs by individuals or by, for example, a local authority through a change of planning use.

22/27.4     GM Gillion provided a summary of the Youth Intervention and Education Team's work with schools and community groups. The Service had identified risks to young people and provided courses tailored to reduce the risk. The Chair commented that this work was not a statutory duty but had societal value and Members spoke of the improvements that were made for the lives of young persons that attend the Prince's Trust courses.

22/27.5     GM Gillion highlighted to Members that 973 safe and well visits were completed in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area in quarter 1, which was an increase from 385 in the same quarter last year.

22/27.6     GM Gillion reported on the work undertaken in quarter 1 in relation to road safety. In reply to a question from Cllr Hilliard, GM Gillion explained that increases in road traffic accidents tended to coincide with the tourist season, with darker nights when the clocks changed backwards and with the increase in young drivers following on from the relaxation of Covid restrictions. Consideration was given to the well-being of crews that had attended road traffic accidents. ACFO Cole added that road accident hot spots were identified, and action taken to reduce risks through the multi-agency Road Injury Prevention Panel, which was chaired by the Service.

22/27.7     GM Gillion also reported that year to date the Service had received six firesetter referrals in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and had closed three cases. There had been no re-referrals during this period.

22/27.8     **Priority 2 - protect you and the environment from harm**

22/27.9     GM Gillion explained that the Service had inspected 354 premises within the Building Risk Review programme and this work had been completed within the defined timescale. In reply to an enquiry from Cllr Hilliard, GM Gillion confirmed that site specific tactical plans were also prepared for underground buildings as well as high rise, covering topics such as means of escape and ventilation. ACFO Cole informed Members that the Building Risk Review programme was for high rise buildings that were 18m or higher, and that with a possible change in legislation this might be reduced to 11m or higher, which could lead to funding implications.

22/27.10 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

22/27.11 GM Gillion reported that the availability of wholetime appliances remained strong. On-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 87% of the time and wholetime appliances 96% of the time.

22/27.12 GM Gillion reported on the incidents in the quarter. The Chair commented on how close the fire at Canford Heath had been to residential properties. At the invitation of the Chair, Michael Tomlinson MP thanked the Service for their response at Canford Heath.

22/27.13 The Chair thanked GM Gillion for his presentation.

22/27.14 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 1 2022**

22/28 **Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**

22/28.1 The Officers responded to questions raised by Members relating to the fire risks relating to lithium batteries, including those fitted to electric bikes and mobility scooters; the lessons learned from the Canford Heath and Studland fires, and the increased fire risk that might arise because of the large increases in fuel prices, for example a potential increase in the use of propane gas bottles within homes. Reference was also made to the preparation for the Bournemouth Air Festival and the potential for joint charity work for the Fire Fighters Charity, for example with Student Unions.

22/29 **Date of Next meeting**

22/29.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 22 November 2022 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.20

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_