



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 November 2021, 10.00am at Poole Fire Station, Poole.**

Members present:

Cllr Steve Baron  
Cllr Paul Hilliard  
Cllr Toby Johnson

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole  
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why  
Group Manager (GM), Stuart Gillion  
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw  
Programme Officer Service Improvement, Rachel Bentley (open seat)

**21/27 Election of Chair**

21/27.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole opened the meeting. He explained that Cllr Millie Earl, the newly nominated member for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council, had given apologies for the meeting and was also required to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He therefore asked for nominations for the role of Chair for the meeting, with an item to be included on the 23 February 2022 agenda to again elect a Chair. Cllr Toby Johnson was nominated by Cllr Steve Baron and seconded by Cllr Paul Hilliard.

21/27.2 **RESOLVED: That Cllr Johnson be elected Chair of the BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee for the meeting and that an item to appoint a Chair be included on the 23 February 2022 meeting Agenda.**

**21/28 Welcome**

21/28.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members.

**21/29      Apologies**

21/29.1      No apologies were received.

**21/30      Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business**

21/30.1      The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**21/31      Public questions**

21/31.1      There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

21/31.2      **RESOLVED: Members noted there were no public questions.**

**21/32      Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 August 2021**

21/32.1      The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/32.2      **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

**21/33      Action progress report**

21/33.1      ACFO Andy Cole, provided an update to the Committee on action 334 regarding how Service volunteers are or could be thanked and given appreciation for the vital work they carried out was facilitated by the volunteer route through the Department that they worked for and through the Annual Awards Ceremony. It was agreed that the action was completed

21/33.2      **RESOLVED: Members agreed that Action 334 was complete and noted that there were no actions outstanding.**

**21/34      Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 2**

21/34.1      Group Manager (GM) 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](#).

- 21/34.2     **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 21/34.3     GM Gillion highlighted that 85% of incidents were responded to by on-call firefighters and that operational crews were now carrying out safe and well visits, as well as Safe and Well Advisors. He added that 533 safe and well visits were carried out in quarter 2, which was an increase of 14% on the previous year (466), with vulnerable households being prioritised for visits.
- 21/34.4     In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Cole explained that the accidental dwelling fires downward trend of 3% year to date referred to fires caused by, for example, cooking accidents or electrical faults rather than deliberate fires. The trend analysis was important and was studied season to season. GM Gillion added that 58% of safe and well visits led to guidance provided about safe cooking practices, including the fitting of smoke alarms and how to test them.
- 21/34.5     GM Gillion drew attention to the road safety social media activity which, in quarter 2, included over 100,000 reaches and views. Additionally, the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 lessons on road safety had been downloaded 376 times nationally to date from TES.com.
- 21/34.6     **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 21/34.7     In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Cole explained that the Service worked in partnership with private companies to provide boats to take resources to a fire in the event of the need to support the Poole Harbour Island Fire Team.
- 21/34.8     GM Gillion also reported that the automatic fire alarms strategy at commercial premises across the BCP Group area had delivered cashable savings of £975 for on-call attendance and returned 61 hours to wholetime crews. In answer to a Member's question, Area Manager (AM) Seth Way explained that the majority of the commercial premises were low risk, with others being sheltered accommodation, student accommodation and private premises with a smoke alarm fitted. There would always be attendance where there was life risk. There were regular meetings with the University in order to be sighted on changing circumstances, for example if student accommodation was being let for alternative purposes.
- 21/34.9     The Chair asked about the two-remaining premises in the BCP area that did not have a Premises Information Plate, with 210 premises having plates fitted. It was explained that the fitting of the information plates arose out of lessons learnt from the Lakanal House and Grenfell Tower fires and that the plates contained information gathered by the Fire Safety Team following engagement with various groups. The two premises where they had not been fitted had no objection to the exercise but preferred not to have the yellow sign plates on their building. The cost of installation of the plates had been covered by the premises' owners.

21/34.10 ACFO Cole reported that with the of change of use of hotel accommodation for longer term letting, there had been a need to translate fire safety information into different languages to inform new occupants, and that this could be accessed through the authority's website.

21/34.11 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**

21/34.12 GM Gillion reported on appliance availability, with 98.8% availability being achieved for wholetime duty system and 85.3% for the on-call duty system.

21/34.13 In answer to a Member's question, the reasoning behind the quarter 2 response times to fires and other emergencies was explained. ACFO Cole stated that with the easing of lockdown measures there was increased traffic on the road which had resulted in slightly lengthened response times.

21/34.14 Members asked if a trend could be seen that the service was returning to normality from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was confirmed that there were no service concerns that had arisen and ACFO Cole added that the service was more adept to provide business as usual, including using health protection to keep stations operational and for staff to uptake vaccinations.

21/34.15 The Chair thanked GM Gillion for his presentation.

21/34.16 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2 2021**

**21/35 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**

21/35.1 There were no matters raised by Members.

**21/36 Date of Next meeting**

21/36.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 23 February 2022 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.00

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