



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held at 10:00 hours on Wednesday 27 August 2020. This was a remote meeting held in Microsoft Teams.

Members present:

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

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Darren Langdown
Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse
Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard

20/11 Welcome

20/11.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

20/12 Apologies

20/12.1 Apologies were received from GM Dave Graham.

20/13 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

20/13.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

20/14 Public Questions

20/14.1 No public questions had been received.

20/15 Review and approve Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole LPS meeting on 26 February 2020

20/15.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

20/15.2 Cllr Hilliard asked for an update on the roll-out of Premise Information Plates (PIP) that was referred to in paragraph 20/07.15 of the minutes. AM Why provided the following updated: there are currently 230 high-rise buildings across the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) area, 103 of these already have the PIP fitted. A further 55 are in the process of having the data collected, or already have a draft PIP created. The Service has made contact with another 28 to request the initial data and has 31 with which it still needs to make contact. Ten of the 230 have been deemed as not requiring a PIP due to the building height or risk. There are three 'Responsible Persons' who have declined to fit the plate. These details have been passed to the Fire Safety team to meet with them to ensure they understand about the PIP and the benefits these bring to the community and the Service. AM Why confirmed that he would provide a further update on progress at the next meeting.

20/15.3 **ACTION: AM Why to provide the Committee with a further progress report on the implementation of PIP's in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole at its next meeting.**

20/15.4 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

20/16 Action Progress

20/16.1 Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse reported that there were no actions from the last meeting and none outstanding from previous meetings.

20/16.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the report.**

20/17 Performance reporting and briefing

20/17.1 GM Langdown took Members through a presentation to accompany the Performance report for quarter 1, 2020-21.

- 20/17.2 **Priority 1 – Making safer and healthier choices.**
- 20/17.3 GM Langdown reported that the availability of wholetime appliances remains very strong and that on-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 96.25% of the time. He explained some of the actions the Service is taking to ensure that on-call availability remains stable, including the new on-call pay model, the review of on-call staff contracts and the supporting role the on-call support officers play in recruitment. He reported that contracts are currently being examined to determine any gaps in availability to which the Service can recruit.
- 20/17.4 GM Langdown explained the ways in which ‘Have a Go’ events have been carried out virtually to ensure they comply with coronavirus restrictions.
- 20/17.5 GM Langdown reported improved station productivity and reduced costs of calling out on-call firefighters as a result of the new strategy of non-attendance to automatic fire alarms (AFA) between the hours of 8am and 6pm. This has freed up more time for wholetime staff to do community safety work and training. He reassured Members that robust plans are in place for these sites and that when an AFA call is received, contact is made to ensure there is no incident. If no confirmation of this can be made, then the Service will mobilise to the address.
- 20/17.6 GM Langdown reported that the Group’s performance against response standards was on track for all incident types during quarter 1.
- 20/17.7 The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on the Maintenance of Skills and Operational Licence. GM Langdown explained that the Training team used a risk assessed approach to the elements of training and have devised ways of maintaining training and assessment. Examples of this is by the use of Teams online events and by running assessments on station and reducing the number of people on courses.
- 20/17.8 The coronavirus pandemic has also had an impact on the Service’s prevention activities, but teams have adapted so that they can deliver in a different way. For example, the Safe and Well team have conducted thousands of safe and well visits over the telephone. Where a household is deemed to be high-risk a physical visit is made, but with additional personal protective equipment. The Service has shared partners’ messages during the pandemic, which has helped to bolster these messages.
- 20/17.9 GM Langdown explained that the online road safety modules that the Service delivered were very successful and received national coverage and were shared with our partners. Online resources have been developed for the Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) courses to ensure new young drivers can still receive the safety messages.

- 20/17.10 Cllr Stribley asked whether individuals would be able to log in and view the SDSA course. GM Langdown replied that he would find out about this.
- 20/17.11 **ACTION: GM Langdown to find out whether the online SDSA courses can be accessed by individuals.**
- 20/17.12 Cllr Hilliard asked how the Service evaluates the impact of prevention activities. ACFO Mahoney explained that an evaluation process is undertaken for all interventions to measure effectiveness. He reported that a value for money tool is currently being developed to measure return on investment.
- 20/17.13 **Priority 2 - Protecting you and the environment from harm**
- 20/17.14 GM Langdown reported that the Service would like to ask the Committee for its support in advocating the inclusion of sprinklers in any new school buildings in order to protect these valuable assets in our community. He explained that there were two school developments in the BCP area which were at the planning stage and that the Service would like to ensure these were sprinklered.
- 20/17.15 All Members of the Committee agreed to support this.
- 20/17.16 AM Why explained that the Service had been in contact with BCP Council to seek assurance that the former agreement with Dorset Council, that any new schools would be sprinklered, had moved across to BCP Council. Once the position was confirmed he confirmed that he would report back to the Committee. If there was any doubt as to the position, he would draft a letter to the Portfolio holder for and Director of Education at BCP Council for members of the Committee to sign.
- 20/17.17 **ACTION: Once the position on the agreement for the sprinklering of new schools was confirmed with BCP Council, AM Why will report back to Members. If there is any doubt as to the position, a letter will be drafted to the Portfolio holder for and Director of Education at BCP Council for members of the Committee to sign.**
- 20/17.18 GM Langdown reported that one enforcement notice had been issued in the Hamworthy area and that this involved a multi- agency enforcement team.
- 20/17.19 **Priority 3 - Being there when you need us**
- 20/17.20 GM Langdown explained the Operational Effectiveness Database and how it is used for learning across the Service and operational assurance, capturing lessons learnt for training and the introduction of new equipment. He reported that the system also manages incident debriefs, and their learning outcomes.

- 20/17.21 GM Langdown reported that a Wildfire Attack helicopter was used at the recent fire at Wareham Forest. Wildfire tactical advisors from other fire and rescue services had assisted with issues such as burning fuel to break the fire and welfare support. He said that it had been a good example of how the Service worked well with multi-agencies and other fire and rescue services.
- 20/17.22 Cllr Stribley asked how helicopters made a difference in these incidents. GM Langdown explained that by dropping a large quantity of water on the fire, it could prevent a quick spread, but that firefighters had to move in quickly after the helicopter to rapidly knock down and suppress the fire.
- 20/17.23 Cllr Hilliard asked about sickness and staffing levels. GM Langdown reported that the Service was fortunate that the levels of infections had been low and that sickness levels stayed low. Small numbers of staff had to self-isolate and more on-call staff were available where they had been furloughed. There had also been a slight decrease in incidents.
- 20/17.24 AM Why explained the work in making sure the Service's premises were safe and that health protection teams had recently been invited to audit these arrangements.
- 20/17.25 The Chair thanked GM Langdown for his presentation.
- 20/18 **Performance Dashboard**
- 20/18.1 ACFO Mahoney reported that the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee dashboard was due to be available for the quarter 1 reporting period. However, the coronavirus pandemic had inhibited the readiness of the system to go live. He explained that the technical aspects are virtually complete now and it is expected that the dashboard will be utilised for quarter 2 reporting in November.
- 20/19 **Matters raised by Members**
- 20/19.1 No matters were raised.
- 20/20 **Date of next meeting**
- 20/20.1 The next meeting of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee will take place on 19 November 2020 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 10:53hrs

Signed: _____