



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 November 2021, 10.00am at the Conference Room at the Poundbury offices, Peverell Avenue West, Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3SU.

Members present:

Cllr Pete Barrow (Chair)
Cllr Richard Biggs
Cllr Rebecca Knox
Cllr Byron Quayle

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

21/27 Welcome

21/27.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members.

21/28 Apologies

21/28.1 No apologies were received.

21/29 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

21/29.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

21/30 Public questions

21/30.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

- 21/30.2 Arising out of consideration of this item, Members requested that a report be brought to a future meeting on improving ways to communicate with the larger towns in Dorset, such as Blandford, including the use of social media, Facebook, podcasts, and presentations to town councils on the work of the Service, including promoting the Authority's annual figures and the value for money that it provides.
- 21/30.3 **ACTION: That a report be brought to a future meeting on improving ways to communicate with the larger towns in Dorset.**
- 21/30.4 **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no public questions.**
- 21/31 Review and approve minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) Committee meeting held on 26 August 2021**
- 21/31.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 21/31.2 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 21/32 Action progress report**
- 21/32.1 Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack and the Democratic Services Officer provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:
- 21/32.2 Action 297 to obtain further feedback and outcomes from the attendees of the SPARC course. It was agreed that Area Manager (AM), Seth Why, write formally to the Cabinet Lead Member for Education at Dorset Council to receive this information and to report back to the next LPS meeting.
- 21/32.3 **ACTION: That Area Manager (AM), Seth Why, write formally to the Cabinet Lead Member for Education at Dorset Council to receive information on the attendees of the SPARC course and to report back to the next LPS meeting.**
- 21/32.4 Action 317 to provide Members with an updated position on the Recharge Policy within the quarterly performance report. It was agreed that the action was completed.
- 21/32.5 Action 318 on writing to the Chairman to identify how an introduction to Cllr Graham Karr Jones may support the work of the Service. It was noted that this action was being progressed.
- 21/32.6 Action 320 on requesting that David Sidwick, Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner, be invited to the August LPS meeting. It was noted that David Sidwick would attend the full Fire and Rescue Authority meeting in February 2022 and this action was completed. Arising out of consideration of this action, the Chair asked if David Sidwick could attend future LPS meetings virtually by MS Teams.

21/32.7 **ACTION: That Democratic Services consider whether David Sidwick, Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner, can be invited to attend future Dorset LPS meetings virtually by MS Teams.**

21/32.8 **RESOLVED: Members noted there were no actions outstanding.**

21/33 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 2

21/33.1 GM Pack 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](#).

21/33.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

21/33.3 In answer to Members' questions, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Andy Cole explained that the Service was able to quantify as both cashable and non-cashable savings the societal work that it undertook to support partners, for example Dorset Council, the NHS and the Police, via the Partnership Register. An example was assisting the NHS to gain access to a property rather than involving the Police. There was also national metrics to measure the cost of a house fire or a fatality resulting from a road traffic accident. It was noted that the Service also had an advantage over other service providers in gaining access to premises for safe and well visits. It was more difficult to quantify where the Service had been involved through partnership work in a lifestyle change, for example to assist in a lifestyle change for a vulnerable person.

21/33.4 In respect of questions relating to chimney fires, ACFO Cole explained that the Prevention and Media Teams assessed trends and would align seasonal campaigns with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) calendar of events.

21/33.5 GM Pack reminded Members that the number of safe and well visits year to date had increased by 14.7% to 567 visits compared 494 in the previous year. Operational crews were now carrying out visits in addition to Safe & Well Advisors. Of these visits, 58% required smoke alarm purchase and fitting advice. In respect of road safety, the jointly provided Safe Drive Stay Alive programme had year to date been delivered to 825 attendees from six schools over five sessions in Dorset.

21/33.6 GM Pack continued that year to date the Service had received 16 fire-setter referrals in the Dorset Group with 14 cases successfully closed. In reply to a Member's question, the officers set out the work that was undertaken with the Safeguarding Team and Children Services and Social Services to evaluate

fire-setter cases. In response to a Member's request, AM Why stated that he would confirm with Dorset Council's Education Team that the information exchange over fire-setters was also established. In addition, AM Why stated that he would report back to Cllr Richard Biggs in respect to KLOE 2 of the Service performance dashboard to clarify the involvement of the Service with Kingston Maurwood College, Dorchester. At the conclusion of debate, it was agreed that Marc House, Area Manager - Prevention and Protection, be invited to present to the next meeting of the LPS the evaluations that were made in respect of firesetters (via MS Teams).

- 21/33.7 **ACTION: AM Why to confirm with Dorset Council's Education Team that the information exchange over fire-setters was established.**
- 21/33.8 **ACTION: AM Why to report back to Cllr Biggs in respect to KLOE 2 of the service performance dashboard to clarify the involvement of the Service with Kingston Maurwood College, Dorchester.**
- 21/33.9 **ACTION: That Marc House, Area Manager - Prevention and Protection, be invited to present to the next meeting of the LPS the evaluations that were made in respect of firesetters (via MS Teams).**
- 21/33.10 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 21/33.11 GM Pack reported that in quarter 2 the automatic fire alarm strategy at commercial premises had delivered cashable savings of £3,900 for on-call non-attendances in Dorset.
- 21/33.12 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**
- 21/33.13 Arising out of consideration of the response to fires and other emergencies for quarter 2, the officers provided details of on-call availability in the Dorset Group and also the effects of recruitment on on-call availability at specified stations. It was reported that in villages with high housing cost there were challenges in obtaining on-call recruitment, which may have an implication for response times. Have a Go days were also being used to aid recruitment and the Service was trialling innovative technological ways to achieve solutions for service delivery.
- 21/33.14 ACFO Cole informed Cllr Byron Quayle that information would be provided on the two failed response travel-times to fire and other emergencies to other properties where the first appliance did not meet the travel-time isochrome. This was to gauge whether the extra prevention works were effective, including whether they related to thatched dwellings. AM Why added that stations had their own risk profiles and therefore knew the risks to plan for interventions. Following debate, it was agreed that future performance reports provide details of fails and whether intervention had been carried out prior to the fail in order to ascertain if the fail was significant.

- 21/33.15 **ACTION: That future performance reports provide details of response travel time fails and whether intervention had been carried out prior to this fail, to ascertain if it was significant.**
- 21.33.16 The officers confirmed to the Committee that the Service took a long-term view on climate change, including the replacement of vehicles, which had a life expectancy of 20 years.
- 21/33.17 In reply to Members' questions, the officers provided detail on the numbers and type of assistance that was provided by the Service to those with mental health issues and the involvement with bariatric rescues. It was commented by Members that this cost was borne by the Service but would be a saving to other service providers and could be quantified. AM Why responded that this information was available in Sycle (the Service's business software) and could be made available to Members on the Service's dashboard.
- 21/33.18 **Demand summary**
- 21/33.19 The Committee briefly discussed with the officers the risk approach to Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites within the Dorset Group area and also how support was offered to Brownsea Island firefighters.
- 21/33.20 The Chair thanked GM Pack for his presentation.
- 21/33.21 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2 2021**
- 21/34 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**
- 21/34.1 There were no matters raised by Members.
- 21/35 Date of Next meeting**
- 21/35.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 24 February 2022 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.40

Signed: _____