



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at
10:00am on 26 August 2021 at the Poundbury offices, Conference room, Peverell
Avenue West, Poundbury, Dorset**

Members present:

Cllr Pete Barrow
Cllr Rebecca Knox
Cllr Byron Quayle

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Services, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Dave Graham
Democratic Services Officer, Dave Shaw
Executive and Democratic Services Administrator, Steph Howard.

21/17 Election of Chair

21/17.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Andy Cole opened the meeting. He asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Barrow was nominated by Cllr Quayle. This was seconded by Cllr Knox. A show of hands confirmed unanimous approval and Cllr Barrow was elected Chair.

21/17.2 **RESOLVED: Cllr Barrow be elected Chair of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee.**

21/18 Welcome

21/18.1 Cllr Barrow welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

21/19 Apologies

21/19.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Biggs.

21/20 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

21/20.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

21/21 Public Questions

21/21.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

21/22 Review and approve minutes of the Dorset LPS meeting on 18 May 2021

21/22.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/22.2 Arising out of consideration of the minutes, Cllr Barrow raised a question as to whether the increase in the number of Air B&B lettings in residential areas, such as in Weymouth, raised additional fire risks. AM Seth Why stated that this was not the case from a Service perspective. He was however aware of guidance for Bed and Breakfast properties being prepared by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service which he would bring to the attention of the Community Safety Team.

21/22.3 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

21/23 Action Progress Report

21/23.1 Area Manager (AM) Seth Why provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:

21/23.2 Action 297 regarding the obtaining of further feedback and outcomes of the SPARC course held at Weymouth Fire Station. This was being pursued with Dorset Council Social Services.

21/23.3 Action 316 and the reporting of overview data to Members. It was agreed that the action was completed.

21/23.4 Action 317 on updating the position of the Recharge Policy within the quarterly performance report, which continued to be progressed.

21/23.5 Action 318 and introducing Fire Safety to work with Housing Associations in order that data could be shared. This was an ongoing action in consultation with the Head of Housing at Dorset Council.

- 21/23.6 Action 319 regarding the numbers and reason of false alarm calls which were recorded and the recording of the most frequent originators. It was agreed that this action was completed.
- 21/23.7 Action 320, where it was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner had tentatively agreed to attend the November meeting.
- 21/23.8 Cllr Barrow commented that the Police and Crime Commissioner was seeking to introduce a Police Cadet Scheme and asked if there could be possible joint working with such a scheme in the future. Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Andy Cole responded that the Service had a high level of liaison with the Police, which would continue.
- 21/23.9 **RESOLVED: Members noted the pending action on numbers 317, 318 and 320 and agreed to close 316 and 319 as complete.**

21/24 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 1

- 21/24.1 GM Dave Graham presented to Members the Performance report for quarter 1. A link to the presentation is [here](#).
- 21/24.2 The three priorities that he had responsibility for in his area were:
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.
- 21/24.3 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 21/24.4 In answer to a Member's question, AM Seth Why confirmed that Dorset Social Care was one of the established partnerships with the Service. AM Why added that work was continuing to analyse the content of referrals from partners in order to develop the value of the partnership. This would be bespoke to each partnership to meet the partner's and the Service's requirements. A Member suggested that it might be helpful if a skills audit of the Authority's Members was undertaken to identify how they might assist in partnership working.
- 21/24.5 In answer to a Member's question regarding the wildfire webinar 'Wildfire – A Rising Threat in the UK', which took place on 28 April 2021 hosted by the Urban Heaths Partnership, GM Graham explained the national and local steps that were taking place to have the capacity and capability to address an anticipated increase in heathland fires and also the responsibility of landowners. Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Andy Cole added that Community Risk Planning assisted in reducing the risk and the Capital Plan was used for replacement resources to plan for identified risks, such as wildfires. He added that the Chief Fire Officer also liaised with the Government on budget requirements to meet emerging risks.

21/24.6 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

21/24.7 A Member drew attention to the average response time to fires and other emergencies. It was noted that the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic had been to reduce the volume of traffic on the roads which had seen a positive outcome in response times. However, the increase in traffic since the easing of lockdown restrictions in quarter 1 had resulted in a slight increase, which would continue to be monitored.

21/24.8 Following a Member's question, GM Graham explained that Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) training had recommenced internally following the easing of lockdown restrictions and would recommence nationally from September 2021.

21/24.9 In reply to a Member's enquiry, the officers provided details of the emergency response that would follow a landslip. This might include Urban Search and Rescue and a multi-agency response acting on information provided by the Police as to persons who were unaccounted for.

21/24.10 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

21/24.11 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 1.**

21/25 Matters raised by Members (agreed with Chair)

21/25.1 Members briefly discussed the possible content of the Fire Reform White Paper.

21/26 Date of Next Meeting

21/26.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 25 November 2021 at 10:00am at Conference Room at the Poundbury offices, Peverell Avenue West, Poundbury, Dorset.

The meeting closed at 11:25

Signed: _____