



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority meeting at 10:00 hours on 10 December 2020. This was an online meeting held in Microsoft Teams and open to all members of the public.

Members present:

Cllr Rebecca Knox (Chair)	Cllr Byron Quayle (Vice Chair)
Cllr Steve Baron	Cllr Pete Barrow
Cllr Richard Biggs	Cllr Ernie Clark
Cllr Malcolm Davies	Cllr Paul Hilliard
Cllr Peter Hutton	Cllr Toby Johnson
Cllr Bob Jones	Cllr Brian Mattock
Cllr Christopher Newbury	Cllr Paul Oatway
Cllr Garry Perkins	Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Kevin Small	Cllr Ann Stribley

Officer attendance:

Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Ben Ansell
Clerk and Monitoring Officer, Jonathan Mair
Head of Financial Services and Treasurer, Ian Cotter
Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO), Derek James
Director of People Services, Jenny Long
Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Director of Service Support, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Byron Standen
Head of Information and Communications, Vikki Shearing
Head of Strategic Planning & Corporate Assurance, Jill McCrae
Area Manager (AM), Service Support, Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Prevention and Protection, Marc House
Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard
Strategic Planning Manager, Clare Morgan

20/36 Welcome

20/36.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Members introduced themselves and the Chair gave a roll call of officers in attendance.

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20/37 Apologies

20/37.1 No apologies were received.

20/38 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and notifications of any other business

20/38.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

20/39 Review the minutes of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 30 September 2020 and any matters arising

20/39.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

20/39.2 Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Ben Ansell confirmed that all actions had been completed. He drew Members' attention to paragraph 20/28 on pages 19 and 20, noting that both himself and the Chair attended the Wiltshire Public Service Board and formally presented the Annual Report which was very well received.

20/39.3 **RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

20/40 Receive the minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee meeting on 17 September 2020 and a verbal update from the 4 December meeting

20/40.1 Cllr Bob Jones presented the minutes of the meeting of 17 September, which he confirmed had been signed as a true record. He gave a verbal update on the meeting of the 4 December 2020. Cllr Bob Jones explained that the draft Statement of Accounts for 2019-20 were approved in principle at the meeting on 17 September, subject to there being no material change. However, Cllr Bob Jones confirmed that the financial disclosures in the statements had been amended to reflect adjusted liabilities, therefore, the Accounts were brought back to the 4 December meeting and subsequently approved.

20/40.2 **RESOLVED: Members received the minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee meeting of 17 September 2020 and a verbal update from the meeting of 4 December.**

20/41 Treasury Management Mid-year report 2020-21

20/41.1 The Head of Financial Services & Treasurer, Ian Cotter presented the report which covered performance for the six months to 30 September 2020. He drew Members' attention to page 3 paragraph 3, explaining that the Authority

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had outstanding borrowing of £14.174m and confirmed that no new loans were taken out in the first six months of this financial year. In part, this was due to the significant increase in Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) borrowing rates in October 2019 and the impact of the pandemic, which has meant that capital programme spending was less than previously anticipated. He advised Members that the recent Spending Review announcement had included a reversal of the previous PWLB rate increase. He also explained that a provision for borrowing a further £4m had been included which was reflected in the revised estimates for the Prudential Indicators and shown as new debt, referring to the table on page 11.

20/41.2 Ian Cotter reported that investment activity was impacted due to the reduction in the base rates, so any actual returns the Service would see were very low. He reported that expectations were that interest rates and inflation will remain low, so any investment returns would be minimal. However, with low interest rates on long-term borrowing as well, overall financial pressures on the Authority would be eased.

20/41.3 **RESOLVED: Members noted the Treasury Management position as at 30 September 2020.**

20/42 Six-month Service Performance Review - presentation

20/42.1 CFO Ben Ansell reported the performance review for quarter 1 and 2 in a new presentation format. He reminded Members that quarterly scrutiny of Service performance was carried out. Strategic priorities 1, 2 and 3 were scrutinised by the four Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees and the Finance & Audit Committee scrutinised priorities 4 and 5. He explained that the presentation would provide an overall performance update against the five strategic priorities.

20/42.2 The presentation was made available on the Service's website within the Fire and Rescue Authority meeting pages and found here:
<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/20-42-Presentation-slides-Six-month-Performance-Review-2020-21.pdf>.

20/42.3 A discussion took place with Members over the format of this report and how, in the future, it should be presented.

20/42.4 **RESOLVED: Members noted and commented on the performance of the Service over the past six-months.**

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20/43 Update from the Local Performance & Scrutiny Committees - verbal

20/43.1 The Chairs of each Local Performance & Scrutiny (LPS) Committee provided their feedback from the meetings held in November 2020.

20/43.2 Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole

Cllr Stribley provided feedback from the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole LPS Committee. She reported that the presentation given by Officers was well received by the Committee and informative. Cllr Stribley highlighted the Members' continued satisfaction with the work carried out by Officers during the pandemic restrictions, especially the Premise Information Plates and Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) initiatives.

20/43.3 Dorset

Cllr Barrow provided feedback on the Dorset LPS Committee meeting. He reported the Service continued to perform well across the Dorset area. He highlighted that Members were pleased the teams continued to develop educational packages for schools. Cllr Barrow reported that Members were complimentary of the revised virtual SDSA course, that staff continued to be trained throughout the pandemic and work collaboratively with partners. He confirmed there were no issues that would negatively impact corporate targets.

20/43.4 Swindon

Cllr Garry Perkins provided feedback from the Swindon LPS Committee. Highlights of the meeting were achieving 100% performance against the attendance time target for first appliances at sleeping risk incidents, and that savings had been achieved due to the new initiative for responding to unwanted automatic fire alarm calls.

20/43.5 Wiltshire

Cllr Paul Oatway provided feedback from the Wiltshire LPS Committee. He highlighted the positive work of the Service generally, the ongoing Coronavirus work being carried out under the tripartite agreement, and the continued delivery of education during the pandemic through virtual packages for schools and the Ministry of Defence. Cllr Oatway also confirmed that the Committee had been updated on some significant emergency incidents within the Wiltshire area.

20/43.6 RESOLVED: Members noted the verbal updates from all LPS Committee meetings.

20/44 Members podcast

20/44.1 CFO Ben Ansell introduced the Members podcast.

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20/45 Date of next meeting

20/45.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Authority meeting as 11 February 2021 from 10am.

Meeting closed at 11.53hrs

Signed: _____