



DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 March 2025, 10.00am at Room 106 at the Civic Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth.

Members present:

Cllr Paul Hilliard (Chair)
Cllr Cameron Adams
Cllr Olivia Brown
Cllr Clare Weight

Officer attendance:

Temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer (TACFO) - Director of Community Safety, Marc House
Area Manager (AM) Response, Darren Langdown
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

25/01 Welcome

25/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

25/02 Apologies

25/02.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Miles

25/03 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

25/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

25/04 Public questions

25/04.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

25/04.2 RESOLVED: Members noted there were no public questions.

25/05 Review and approve minutes of the BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 November 2024

- 25/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 25/05.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 25/06 Action progress report**
- 25/06.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 19 November 2024 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.
- 25/06.2 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.**
- 25/07 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 3**
- 25/07.1 Area Manager (AM) Response, Darren Langdown presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 3, 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](#).
- 25/07.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 25/07.3 AM Langdown highlighted the value of partnership working, including the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Community Safety Partnership, the BCP Serious Violence Duty Task and Finish Group, the Road Safety Partnership, the Dorset Safeguarding Adult Board (DSAB) and the Local Resilience Forums. The Committee noted that attendance at these meetings was usually Area or Group Managers, or in certain cases a relevant officer, for example the Safeguarding Manager.
- 25/07.4 AM Langdown reported that the availability of on-call appliances was 86.10% and 96.60% for wholetime. The officers explained that there were a number of initiatives to improve on-call availability. These included a quarterly review of current on-call staff contracts of availability; succession planning to maintain availability and support recruitment and targeted recruitment campaigns.
- 25/07.5 The operational competencies of staff were good and in line with corporate targets, with all exceeding 90%.
- 25/07.6 AM Langdown drew attention to the social media activity which was aligned to the National Fire Chiefs Council's campaigns, for example regarding Christmas, smoke alarm testing and electrical items. The key prevention safety messages were shared across various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.com. A total of 512,743 engagements were seen across all platforms. The most seen post on Facebook was regarding air fryers

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and was viewed by 121,926 people. Other popular posts were on wheat bags and e-bike safety messages. Members highlighted the issues of the storage of e-bikes in communal areas and the Officers spoke of the communications focus on 'safety in the home' regarding lithium batteries.

- 25/07.7 Details were provided on the number of road safety and education inputs in quarter 3. In the quarter, 4,428 children and young people had received educational input, comprising 4,021 via their main education provider and 407 via other education. The new education offerings to schools whereby Education Officers would only visit 'Rank 1' (most vulnerable) schools had been introduced with 3,344 children receiving education in 18 Rank 1 primary schools. There were no new firesetter referrals (now referred to as Fire Safety Interventions) in the quarter and there were ten other cases currently open. The current work on Fire Safety Interventions was bespoke to the individual to build positive relationships and to be more engaging to alter behaviours.
- 25/07.8 AM Langdown highlighted that the Safe Drive Stay Alive road safety campaign was being replaced by the Go Drive programme, which was a national campaign. The new programme was an initiative from the National Fire Chiefs Council and was focused on behaviours and education.
- 25/07.9 There were 540 safe and well visits carried out in quarter 3. Safe and well visits were now more targeted. A total of 36 Safeguarding referrals were also submitted within the BCP Area.
- 25/07.10 The number of accidental dwelling fires in quarter 3 was 48, which was identical to the same quarter in 2024. The yearly number of accidental dwelling fires was 135, which was on track to be below the anticipated number of 173.
- 25/07.11 The Officers provided details to Cllr Cameron Adams on safe and well visits. It was stated that visits were prioritised and there was close working with partner agencies through an information sharing agreement. Cases were triaged and followed up. Visits were allocated to specific Watches that had the capacity to make a visit, with Watch Managers empowered to prioritise safe and well visits to those presenting the highest risk.
- 25/07.12 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 25/07.13 Wholetime operational crews had completed 166 business fire safety checks in the quarter across the Service relating to risk based low level fire safety activity.
- 25/07.14 AM Langdown reported on the automatic fire alarms strategy at non-domestic premises across the BCP area. In quarter 3, 88 automatic fire alarms (AFAs) were attended in non-domestic premises in BCP, compared with 82 in the previous quarter. The call challenge had been extended to 24 hours (from 8:00am to 6:00pm) from 1 April 2024.
- 25/07.15 AM Langdown highlighted that the Authority was a statutory consultee in building regulation and licensing consultations.

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25/07.16 Priority 3 – Be there when you need us

25/07.17 The average response times were 7.07 minutes for sleeping risk first pump, 8.36 minutes for other buildings first pump and 7.46 minutes for road traffic collisions first pump. In reply to an observation by Cllr Clare Weight, the Officers stated that a slide to show the attendance time of the second pump would be included in the presentation to the next meeting. It was explained that the attendance of the first pump at an incident was important to identify water supply and perform rescue if required amongst other activities. All attendance types had a special analysis. Stations and crews were aware of their performance through the portal 'How's my Team Doing', and attendance at incidents outside of the isochrone was reported on and analysed.

25/07.18 There had been zero potential fire deaths in the quarter 3 period, with three remaining with the potential for fire deaths that were awaiting a Coroner's verdict. Details were provided on the Operational Effectiveness Database (OED), which was to evaluate and improve operational performance.

25/07.19 Members observed the summary of notable incidents attended in the quarter and the multi-agency exercises that the Service had participated in. In reply to Members' questions, the Officers explained that all firefighters were trained in basic water rescue, with a number trained to be part of wading teams. The highest level of training was provided to the swift water teams and these were based at Weymouth, Poole and Stratton. The use of specialist vehicles was important and the purchase and use of these by the Service was being reviewed to reflect an increase in flooding incidents.

25/07.20 Demand summary

25/07.21 The Key Performance Indicators for the quarter were explained to the Committee. Attendance was for 1022 automatic fire alarms which resulted in a false alarm; 135 accidental dwelling fires; 225 deliberate fires (primary and secondary) and 764 special service incidents attended.

25/07.22 The Chair thanked AM Langdown for the presentation.

25/07.23 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3 2025

25/08 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

25/08.1 Members discussed with Officers issues relating to flooding and heathland fires.

25/08.2 Members mentioned the positive communications involved with the early notification of potential flooding incidents. The Firewise initiative to involve communities and private landowners in the prevention of heathland fires was also explored.

25/09 Date of Next meeting

25/09.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 20 August 2025 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.10