



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the  
Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee  
held at 10:00 hours on Thursday 17 May 2018 at the  
Westlea fire station, The Chesters, Westlea SN5 7DB**

Members present: Cllr Garry Perkins; Cllr Nick Martin; Cllr Abdul Amin; Cllr Steve Allsopp

Officer attendance: Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, James Mahoney; Area Manager, Byron Standen; Head of Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management, Mr Robert Ford; Group Manager, Glyn Moody; Democratic Services Officer, Mrs Marianne Taylor

**18/10 Welcome**

18/10.1 Members selected and agreed Cllr Garry Perkins as Chairman for the meeting in the absence of the former Chairman, Cllr Colin Lovell.

18/10.2 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the final Local Performance & Scrutiny (LPS) Committee meeting for the Authority year 2017 – 18.

**18/11 Apologies**

18/11.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Lovell, retired; and the Performance & Evaluation Manager, Mrs Jane Barnes.

**18/12 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business**

18/12.1 The Chairman asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the localism act. There were no disclosures.

**18/13 Public Questions**

- 18/13.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.
- 18/13.2 Members suggested that consideration should be given to discussing how to promote local meetings and engage with the public.
- 18/13.3 Members agreed they would promote Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee meetings (LPS) at their Parish Council meetings.
- 18/13.4 **ACTION: ACFO Jim Mahoney to take account of promoting the Local Performance and Scrutiny meetings at the LPS annual review meeting.**

**18/14 Minutes of the Swindon LPS meeting on 27 February 2018**

- 18/14.1 The Chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 18/14.2 **RESOLVED: Minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record with no amendments.**

**18/15 Performance monitoring and briefing**

- 18/15.1 AM Standen took Members through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter's Performance Report for Swindon Local Performance & Scrutiny (Appendix A).
- 18/15.2 The three priorities that AM Standen has responsibility for in his area are:  
**Priority 1** Help you make safer and healthier choices  
**Priority 2** Protect you and the environment from harm, and  
**Priority 3** Be there when you need us.
- Priority 1**
- 18/15.3 AM Byron Standen advised Members of several collaborative areas where the Service was working alongside our partner agencies within Swindon Borough. AM Standen added how Safe and Independent Living (SAIL), where we signpost vulnerable people to the various agencies, was progressing.
- 18/15.4 Members were advised by AM Standen that the Service was developing this with assistance from Swindon Voluntary Service. AM Standen added that this would replicate the work undertaken in the Dorset and Wiltshire areas. AM Standen confirmed that Operational crews would be involved in the roll out of this piece of work.
- 18/15.5 AM Standen advised that Education Officers had a bank of resources to support them when visiting Schools, which had a Fire Safety message and

which was age appropriate. AM Standen advised that revised lessons had been trialled and the feedback from these had been very positive.

- 18/15.6 AM Standen advised Members that education delivery totals have been affected by school holidays during the quarter. The Education officers noticed that in the build up to the national Standard Attainment Tests (SAT) the primary schools spent their mornings doing the formal curriculum covering literacy, mathematics and science to help prepare them for the tests.
- 18/15.7 ACFO James Mahoney provided Members with an example of how potential fire setters were identified, adding that all advisors were trained to spot details in young people's behaviour and lifestyle. AM Standen confirmed that there were ten current interventions within the Swindon area.
- 18/15.8 AM Standen advised Members that the Junior Good Citizen event would be taking place and extended an invitation to Swindon LPS Members.
- 18/15.9 AM Standen advised Members that the Road Safety programme had been extended to older age groups and there would be a summer drink drive campaign to support the continued reduction of road traffic incidents across the area over the last three years.
- 18/15.10 Group Manager (GM) Glyn Moody appealed to Members to support funding for Safe Drive, Stay Alive (SDSA) roadshows adding that schools within the Swindon Borough area would be affected by any shortfall in funding.
- 18/15.11 Members suggested that GM Moddy apply to parish councils for local funding and requested a breakdown in costs for SDSA for the Swindon area.
- 18/15.12 In response to a question from Members about insurance benefits for young people, AM Mahoney advised that this was a lobbying opportunity for the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and that there was a lead officer appointed to carry out this role.
- 18/15.13 AM Standen advised that Watch Manager (WM) Mark Evans had created and maintained strong links with the Swindon Downs group which had also led to strong links to local care providers in the area.
- 18/15.14 **ACTION: Democratic Services to invite Members to the Swindon Junior Good Citizen event.**
- 18/15.15 **ACTION: GM Moody to arrange for applications to be made to the Swindon parish councils for a contribution to funding SDSA.**
- 18/15.16 **ACTION: The road safety manager to provide a breakdown of costs for SDSA (Swindon) to the next Swindon LPS meeting.**

## **Priority 2**

- 18/15.17 AM Standen advised Members there were strong links in place for Safeguarding referrals, which usually happened when staff become concerned about a vulnerable individual. AM Standen added that the Safeguarding lead was working with social services to providing an alerting system for hoax calls from some individuals with mental health concerns.
- 18/15.18 AM Standen advised Members that there was on-going interaction by the Protection team with local authorities (LA), private landlords and their tenants, regarding fire-safety related matters. AM Standen added that this included discussions about external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinkler systems and water-mist suppression systems.
- 18/15.19 Members were interested to learn about the work carried out in houses in multiple occupation (HiMO) and raised their concern about 'bed renting services'. AM Standen advised Members that the Service was working with police and LAs on organised crime including modern slavery - recent work has highlighted living conditions for some migrants.
- 18/15.20 Members raised their concerns about unregistered waste sites. AM Standen assured Members that the service was working with partner agencies and providing advice to those sites they become aware of, adding that fly tipping was handled in a similar way.
- 18/15.21 AM Standen advised Members that crews continue to work on operational/tactical plans for the local high-rise property risks. He added that Swindon operational staff were also providing Wiltshire area crews with high-rise building refresher training which was specifically targeted to crews who regularly standby at Swindon during busy periods.
- 18/15.22 ACFO Mahoney advised members that the 'Hackitt' review, following the Grenfell Tower fire, had been published with a full report to Members expected at a future Authority meeting.
- 18/15.23 AM Standen updated Members on the Brunel Centre and the Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA) exercise with over 200 simulated casualties. AM Standen advised that the Salisbury nerve agent incident had a knock-on effect due to resources being tied up post incident. AM Standen added that the Service successfully maintained cover over the period of snowy conditions, helping other agencies affected with the co-ordination of the 4x4 response.

## **Priority3**

- 18/15.24 AM Standen advised that four firefighters would be taking up their roles in the coming weeks and an On-call firefighter started recently and others were still in training. He added that a range of opportunities to recruit were being followed through.

18/16.25 AM Standen reported that response times for Swindon were above average, with accidental dwelling fires similar to the national figures and predominantly kitchen related.

18/15.26 AM Standen advised that deliberate fire setting was reducing however the number was expected to increase when children were off school and the weather was good. AM Standen added there were some concerns about anti-social behaviour (ASB) and vehicle fires which were being addressed.

**Briefing**

18.15.27 AM Standen took Members through a recent recycling centre significant event which was dealt with swiftly with ten appliances in attendance in the early hours of the morning. He added that a gas explosion in a house resulted in a lucky escape for a young female who escaped with minor injuries and there was some damage to the house which was probably caused by the gas cooker.

**18/16 Issues raised by Members (agreed with chairman)**

18/16.1 Cllr Steve Allsopp recorded his thanks for the patience, curtesy and professional treatment he had received from Officers and staff.

18/16.2 The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their support and attendance throughout the year.

18/16.3 The Democratic Services Officer, Mrs Marianne Taylor, reminded Members of the changes going forward which would affect all LPSs, but particularly Swindon due to there being only three Members from June onwards.

**18/18 Date of Next Meeting**

18/18.1 The Chairman confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 4 September 2018 at 10:00hrs at Westlea fire station, The Chesters, Westlea SN5 7DB

Meeting ended at 11:22am

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_