



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee meeting held remotely on 2 September 2020 at 10:00 hours.

Members present:

Cllr Brian Mattock

Cllr Abdul Amin

Cllr Rebecca Knox (substitute)

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Services, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney

Area Manager (AM), Seth Why

Group Manager (GM), Glyn Moody

Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse

Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard

20/11 Welcome

20/11.1 Cllr Brian Mattock chaired the meeting in Cllr Perkins' absence. Cllr Mattock opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and thanked Cllr Knox for joining as a substitute Member.

20/12 Apologies

20/12.1 Due to technical difficulties Cllr Perkins was unable to attend or chair the meeting.

20/13 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

20/13.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

20/14 Public questions

20/14.1 No public questions had been received prior to the meeting.

- 20/15 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon LPS meeting on 13 February 2020**
- 20/15.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 20/15.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 20/16 Action progress report**
- 20/16.1 Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse advised Members that there were no outstanding actions.
- 20/17 Performance monitoring and briefing**
- 20/17.1 GM Glyn Moody took Members through the performance report, with an accompanying presentation.
- 20/17.2 **Priority 1** Making safer and healthier choices
- 20/17.3 GM Moody reported that the Service have been attending meetings and, along with our partner agencies, continue to support the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership, Swindon Community Safety Partnership Board, the Swindon Health & Wellbeing Board, and the Swindon Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- 20/17.4 GM Moody reported that this quarter saw on-call appliances available to respond to incidents 67.69% of the time.
- 20/17.5 GM Moody noted that the Service is reviewing the on-call contracts to identify any potential gaps in crew availability and explained that this will enable the Service to recruit more effectively into those gaps.
- 20/17.6 GM Moody reported that on-call support officers (OCSO) are in the process of looking at how to organise coronavirus safe 'have a go' events to support recruitment.
- 20/17.7 Members reviewed the performance of response standards on pages 6 and 7 of appendix A.

- 20/17.8 GM Moody advised Members that the prevention team had managed a busy programme of activity through online resources and social media (Twitter, Facebook). Confirming that this work was promoting and heightening awareness for Child Safety week, the Royal Life Saving Society's seaside safety, and the Service's Road Safety coronavirus education modules, which had gained national coverage. He went on to advise that the Service had also promoted fire safety in the home and bonfire & BBQ safety due to seeing an increase in bonfires as a result of garden waste collections being suspended during the lockdown.
- 20/17.9 ACFO Jim Mahoney commented that the Service has remained in contact with schools and, as the educational products have been developed and adapted for online use, the Service has been engaging with these schools to encourage their use.
- 20/17.10 GM Moody informed Members on how the Service was involved in the Community Wellbeing Hubs. Highlighting that this work included delivering food parcels and medication, along with door knocking for the most vulnerable people, to identify if they required any assistance. He also noted that several operational staff received training to drive ambulances.
- 20/17.11 GM Moody reminded Members that the Service aligns road safety activities to local and national campaigns. He advised that this quarter the Service had supported the #takeextracare campaign, the Older Drivers Forum, (Governments MOT exemption campaign) and the My Red Thumb campaign (to stop using handheld mobile phones whilst driving. He went on to note that the Service had provided social media support to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and National Police Chiefs Council "Fatal 4" campaigns.
- 20/17.12 GM Moody updated Members that due to the coronavirus pandemic the Service has been restricted from delivering the Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) programme to young people in Swindon. However, he noted that the Service is piloting new virtual reality technology to support the delivery of the programme in the near future.
- 20/17.13 GM Moody informed Members that station managers work closely with the Service's Arson Reduction Coordinator who provides quarterly data on numbers of deliberate fires. He went on to highlight that recently an operational crew had noticed arson trends which had been plotted on a 'heat map' and highlighted these to the police, who subsequently made an arrest.
- 20/17.14 GM Moody advised that during lockdown the Swindon group had worked to build partnerships for the future with Area Boards, schools, and community groups. He advised that working with these groups allows those involved to identify young people at risk to attend Firesetter and Salamander courses. GM Moody highlighted that the positive partnership with Swindon Borough Council continues and the Service has received funding from them to carry out four Salamander courses.

- 20/17.15 Members discussed crime figures being significantly lower during lockdown but noted that the figure recorded of 67% for deliberate fires seemed high. GM Moody informed Members that this was investigated and some garden bonfires, which got out of control, were mis-recorded as deliberate fires. He advised that the Service has been educating the crews to make sure the results are being accurately recorded.
- 20/17.16 Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Service has adapted how the Safe & Well team provides fire safety support. GM Moody informed Members that residents had been telephoned to provide guidance and, using a risk-based approach, only those who were particularly vulnerable and in need of equipment had been visited. As a result, GM Moody reported the number of visits has reduced by 164 when compared to last year. However, he noted that partner referrals have increased from 42 to 267, which has been due to receiving referrals created via welfare checks on vulnerable people by the Swindon Community Hub.
- 20/17.17 **Priority 2** Protecting you and the environment from harm
- 20/17.18 GM Moody advised that the new strategy for non-attendance to automatic fire alarms at commercial premises between the hours of 8am and 6pm has saved the Service £12,035 in terms of on-call call outs. He went on to explain that this initiative has also provided more capacity for the wholetime crews to carry out prevention work and training.
- 20/17.19 GM Moody updated Members on the fire safety activity for the year to date and took them through the data on page 19 of appendix A.
- 20/17.20 Members discussed whether the Service was expecting any increase in work for the fire safety team with regards to licenced premises. ACFO Mahoney commented that fire safety related issues have continued with business as usual and any complaints received have been dealt with on a risk-based approach.
- 20/17.21 GM Moody advised that the Service continues to work with the NFCC Building Safety Team to feed into future changes that will improve the safety of the occupants of tall buildings, including changes to Building Regulations and fire safety legislation.
- 20/17.22 GM Moody also advised that the Service's protection teams are working towards a Build Risk Review programme which includes 218 tall buildings over the Service area and noted that the second tallest is situated in Swindon.
- 20/17.23 **Priority 3** Being there when you need us
- 20/17.24 GM Moody updated Members on the Operational Effectiveness Database which is a piece of software that allows the Service to evaluate feedback given from operational staff to improve performance and to share learning and good practice across the Service.

- 20/17.25 GM Moody advised Members that during this quarter the Service has invoked its internal pandemic plan and has also dealt with a major incident at Wareham Forest. He advised that the forest fire was resource intensive with firefighters across all four Service groups and over 25 fire pumps attended. He advised that the incident required joint working arrangements with partners including other fire and rescue services.
- 20/17.26 GM Moody added that the Service has been actively involved in the Local Resilience Strategic Coordinating Group and appropriate subgroups throughout the coronavirus pandemic, ensuring support to the multi-agency approach during this major incident.
- 20/17.27 GM Moody advised Members that Swindon fire station was visited by the Duchess of Cornwall who thanked keyworkers from NHS Great Western Hospital, Fire & Rescue and Ambulance Services.
- 20/17.28 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved the performance for quarter 1.**

20/18 Update on performance dashboard (verbal)

- 20/18.1 ACFO Mahoney advised Members that the reporting dashboard was due to be available for the quarter 1 reporting period for 2020/21. He advised that the coronavirus pandemic had inhibited the readiness of the system to go live. He confirmed that it is expected that the dashboard will be utilised for quarter 2, reporting at the November LPS meeting.

20/19 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

- 20/19.1 No further matters were raised.

20/20 Date of next meeting

- 20/20.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 24 November 2020 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.05

Signed: _____