



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held at 10:00 hours on Tuesday 23 February 2021. This was a remote meeting held in Microsoft Teams.

Members present:

Cllr Gary Perkins (Chair)
Cllr Brian Mattock
Cllr Kevin Small

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Area Manager (AM), Andy Cole
Group Manager (GM), Greg Izon
Head of Information, Knowledge and Communications, Vikki Shearing
Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard

21/01 Welcome

21/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

21/02 Apologies

20/02.1 No apologies were received.

21/03 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

21/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

21/04 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon LPS meeting on 24 November 2020

21/04.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/04.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

21/05 Action Progress report

21/05.1 Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard presented the report, advising that there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting or previous meetings.

21/05.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the report.**

21/06 Performance reporting and briefing quarter 3

21/06.1 The Chair welcomed GM Izon as the new Group Manager for Swindon.

21/06.2 GM Izon took Members through a presentation of the Performance report for quarter 3 for priorities 1, 2 and 3.

21/06.3 Priority 1 – making safer and healthier choices

21/06.4 GM Izon provided an update on the multi-agency partnerships the Service contribute to, which support the work in this priority in engaging with our communities.

21/06.5 GM Izon reported that the availability and attendance of Wholetime appliances remains good. On Call appliances were available to respond to incidents 55% of the time. This is an increase of 15% from the previous quarter. Ongoing action being taken to ensure on-call availability improves includes a Service wide review of the Pay Model, a review of on-call contracts of availability and succession planning to maintain availability and support recruitment. Maintenance of skills competency levels for operational staff is currently good and in line with target.

21/06.6 GM Izon provided a summary of the prevention work being undertaken. 21 schools received the new virtual fire safety education lesson, with a total of 1,484 children attending. The Education team have produced a number of resources for parents, carers and educators to use, which will help children understand how they can help keep themselves safe and well.

21/06.7 GM Izon reported that the Service aligns its road safety initiatives to local and national road safety campaigns. During this quarter, activity has involved supporting the digital safe drive stay alive show and focussing messaging on the Fatal Four: using excessive speed, not wearing seatbelts, drink driving and using a mobile phone whilst driving. Awareness has also been centred around Tyre Safety Week and Brake Road Safety Week.

- 21/06.8 GM Izon reported that by working in partnership, the Service have also delivered the online safe drive stay alive session to 590 students across 4 schools in the last quarter. Additionally, Survive the Drive Programme, delivered in partnership with the MOD has reached over 2,000 military staff. £2,400 has been donated by The Hills Group. This will be used to develop a bespoke digital road safety solution for their employees and to help subsidise the SDSA delivery in schools.
- 21/06.9 In terms of firesetting, GM Izon highlighted that referrals are low, with one ongoing.
- 21/06.10 GM Izon highlighted the positive multi agency response following an incident in 2019, which resulted in teams and individuals involved being awarded a Making a Difference Award at the Service's virtual Awards ceremony last year.
- 21/06.11 Due to the coronavirus pandemic, GM Izon reported that the number of safe and well visits has reduced compared to last year by 909 visits, representing a 57% reduction. Referrals from partners has decreased from 74 to 63 which represents a 15% reduction. Year to date, accidental dwelling fires have reduced by 23%.
- 21/06.12 GM Izon advised that support has been provided to the Swindon hub by undertaking welfare checks on vulnerable occupiers and this has involved visits to over 120 occupiers.
- 21/06.13 **Priority 2 - Protecting you and the environment from harm**
- 21/06.14 GM Izon reported that the Service has actively liaised with Local Authority Healthcare and Care Premises to assist with amended procedures and guidance as a result of coronavirus. He advised that the risk based inspection programme for non-domestic buildings is on track to be delivered in time to start in April 2021. The Service has a corporate target to audit the top 100% of known sleeping accommodation identified as high risk where the Fire Safety Order applies. Progress against this is being monitored. .
- 21/06.15 GM Izon advised Members that the strategy for dealing with automatic fire alarms at commercial premises has resulted in savings of £20,150 in on-call costs and 123 hours reduced disruption for wholetime staff.
- 21/06.16 GM Izon reported the fire safety activity in quarter 3 in comparison to the same period in 2019-20 and this showed positive results.
- 21/06.17 **Priority 3 - Being there when you need us**
- 21/06.18 GM Izon highlighted the good figures for quarter 3 in terms of response times for; fires with a sleeping risk (first appliance 90.5%; the first appliance attending incidents at other properties (100%) and the first appliance attending a road traffic collision (90.5%).

- 21/06.19 GM Izon advised that the debrief and operational effectiveness database continues to be utilised for continuous learning and that the action plan from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report is now complete. GM Izon informed Members that a Service high rise exercise is planned for the end of March at the David Murray John Tower and that Members would be invited to attend.
- 21/06.20 GM Izon reported that the Operational procedures continue to be developed in-line with National Operational Guidance.
- 21/06.21 GM Izon advised that there have been no confirmed fire deaths to date in 2020-21 but a verdict from a fire in April 2020 is awaiting coroner's court.
- 21/06.22 GM Izon reported that operational competence for wholetime crews was above target and the 57% figure for on-call related to 2 individuals which by quarter 4 will show an improvement. Cllr Mattock asked how these figures compared with the other groups in the Service and ACFO Mahoney confirmed that they are broadly reflective of the whole Service area, whilst recognising the different challenges faced by the rural areas of Wiltshire and Dorset.
- 21/06.23 GM Izon highlighted several incidents of note to Members relating to utility failures in Swindon during the last quarter and the Services involvement in the multi-agency approach to support local communities impacted by these.
- 21/06.24 GM Izon reported that multi-agency work remains strong in Swindon. The Service actively participates in all multi-agency and Local Resilience Forum (LRF) activities in response to the coronavirus pandemic with representation at Strategic, Tactical and Operational levels. Work continues to strengthen and update response plans in light of coronavirus restrictions.
- 21/06.25 Lastly, GM Izon provided comparable year to date figures in relation to the number of false alarms the Service has attended, a decrease from 223 in 2019--20 to 205 in 2020-2021; the number of accidental dwelling fires, a decrease from 32 in 2019-2020 to 18 in 2020-2021; the number of deliberate fires, a decrease from 28 in 2019-2020 to 12 in 2020-21; the number of fire related injuries, a decrease from 4 in 2019-2020 to 0 in 2020-21; and the number of special service incidents attended, an increase from 136 in 2019-2020 to 145 in 2020-21.
- 21/06.26 Cllr Perkins raised a question relating to the overall number of calls compared with AFAs and ACFO Mahoney explained the AFA reduction procedure to Members and the positive impact this is having in reducing costs to the Service and improving the management of fire safety in commercial premises.
- 21/06.27 **ACTION: GM Izon to invite Members to a Service high rise exercise being organised in Swindon at the end of March.**
- 21/06.28 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and commented upon the performance of the Service for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.**

21/07 Matters raised by Members

21/07.1 No matters were raised.

21/08 Date of next meeting

21/08.1 The next meeting of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee will take place on 26 May 2021 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 10.56hrs

Signed: _____