



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held at 10:00 hours on Tuesday 24 November 2020. This was a remote meeting held in Microsoft Teams.

Members present:

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

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Area Manager (AM), Response, Seth Why
Area Manager (AM), Prevention and Protection, Marc House
Group Manager (GM), Glyn Moody
Information Systems Manager, Mark Woodfield
Strategic Planning Manager, Clare Morgan
Head of Strategic Planning and Corporate Assurance, Jill McCrae
Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard

20/21 Welcome

20/21.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

20/22 Apologies

20/22.1 No apologies were received.

20/23 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

20/23.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

20/24 Public Questions

20/24.1 No public questions had been received.

20/25 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon LPS meeting on 2 September 2020

20/25.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

20/25.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

20/26 Action Progress

20/26.1 Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard, advised Members that there were no outstanding actions.

20/26.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions to report.**

20/27 Performance reporting and briefing

20/27.1 GM Glyn Moody took Members through the Performance report for quarter 2, with the aid of the online dashboard which was shared with those attending the meeting.

20/27.2 GM Moody took Members through each Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) under Priorities 1, 2 and 3, along with the Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

20/27.3 Priority 1 – making safer and healthier choices

20/27.4 GM Moody explained that the Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAR) document had been updated and published on the Services website in April 2020. He explained that the document is developed taking account of the local Health & Wellbeing strategy, Community Safety Plan, Police and Crime Plan 2017 - 2022 and the Local Resilience Forums Community Risk Register. He confirmed that to support its development the Service had consulted with members of the Local Resilience Forum, Swindon Community Safety Partnership and Health & Wellbeing Boards.

20/27.5 GM Moody reported that the availability of wholetime appliances remained good and in line with corporate target. He explained that on-call availability had been a challenge and noted that this had been impacted by sickness of key members of staff and was foreseen as a short term issue. GM Moody advised of the positive work being undertaken to ensure that on-call availability remains stable, this included the on-call pay model, a review of on-call staff contract availability and proactive recruitment in local communities by on-call support officers.

20/27.6 GM Moody reported the Group's performance against response standards for quarter 2 and confirmed that Swindon had achieved some positive figures, two of which were 100%.

- 20/27.7 In response to a Member's question, ACFO Mahoney confirmed that there are no national response time standards and that the previous national standards compared local Wiltshire towns with London, between which comparisons could not accurately be made. He confirmed that the Service provided, against the Fire and Rescue Services Act and associated national frameworks, an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and explained that this document sets out the Service standards which are signed off by the Authority. ACFO Mahoney also explained that the ten-minute isochrone measure links back to fire survivability and referenced the Exeter University research data.
- 20/27.8 GM Moody reported that the Service worked with the Police, Swindon Borough Council and South Western Ambulance Service (SWAST) to jointly deliver the Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) programme to young people in Swindon. He explained that the education team received funding from Arval, who have donated £7,000 this year and advised that additional funds were received from some Swindon Parish Councils. GM Moody highlighted that due to coronavirus restrictions a digital version of this programme has been developed.
- 20/27.9 GM Moody explained that the Group picks up on any trends in relation to deliberate fire setting. He highlighted some recent incidents which have now led to an arrest. GM Moody noted the significant reduction in deliberate fires compared to the same quarter last year.
- 20/27.10 GM Moody reported that the coronavirus pandemic had had an impact on the Service's prevention activities, which had seen a drop in physical Safe and Well visits. He explained that the advisors have prioritised visits to very high-risk individuals and properties. GM Moody highlighted that the Service receives partner referrals from the Local Authority, housing, adult social care, and the Great Western Hospital discharge teams as well as First City Nursing. He noted that recently the Safe & Well team had been liaising with E-zec Medical Transport Services, who transport up to 10,000 patients every month and have agreed to pass referrals to the Service.
- 20/27.11 The Chair asked whether the Community Safety Partnership was aware of how critical funding was to the Service's ability to carry out future road safety courses and if there had been any offer of financing from them or their partners? ACFO Mahoney noted that this is an area of risk, however advised that Service has sufficient funding to deliver the current programme of work up until the end of this financial year. He advised that the Service is currently carrying out work to identify alternative sources of income.
- 20/27.12 **Priority 2 - Protecting you and the environment from harm**
- 20/27.13 GM Moody reported that the Service is continuing to work with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and their building safety team with regards to the recommendations which arose from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the Hackitt report. He advised that the Service has been carrying out significant

work within the building risk review and confirmed that the Swindon group will be focussing on the high rise properties within its area.

- 20/27.14 GM Moody explained that there had been a downturn in the number of Fire Safety audits due to the coronavirus restrictions but highlighted that teams have adapted to new ways of working to prioritise and inspect care homes and other sleeping accommodation, to ensure fire regulations are maintained to a high standard.
- 20/27.15 GM Moody explained that a new risk-based building inspection programme has been developed to be delivered in 2021/22, taking account of known and predicted risk.
- 20/27.16 GM Moody confirmed that building regulation and licensing applications continue to be carried out within statutory timeframes and that the fire safety department continue to work closely with Local Authority housing and building control, Food Standards Agency, Care Quality Commission, Trading Standards, and border agencies.
- 20/27.17 GM Moody reported improved station productivity and reduced costs of calling out on-call firefighters as a result of the new strategy of non-attendance to automatic fire alarms (AFA) at nonsleeping risk properties between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm. He reassured Members that robust plans are in place for these sites and when an AFA call is received, contact is made to ensure there is no incident. If no confirmation is received, the Service mobilises to the address. GM Moody reported that the Service continues to monitor 'repeat offenders' in domestic properties and works proactively with the residents at the premises.
- 20/27.18 **Priority 3 - Being there when you need us**
- 20/27.19 GM Moody provided Members with an overview of the Services Operational Effectiveness Database (OED). He explained how the system is used across the Service for the purposes of learning, assurance and in capturing lessons learnt from training and exercising and is used to support the introduction of new equipment.
- 20/27.20 GM Moody confirmed that on the Service has access to a multi-agency system which shares, a national and local level, site-specific response plans and cross-border risk information. He noted how it enables an effective multi-agency response to incidents and explained that all flexi-duty Officers are trained to use the system.
- 20/27.21 GM Moody explained that the Service is continuing to carry out Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) training and exercises with our partners, including the Coastguard, SWAST, police, and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

- 20/27.22 **Swindon presentation**
GM Moody took Members through a presentation explaining that the Service carried out a virtual awards ceremony this year, where several firefighters from Swindon received awards. He noted the staff members who had received medals due to long service. He also explained that Blue Watch Swindon received an award for 'Making a Difference', which was given to them by the Chief Fire Officer.
- 20/27.23 GM Moody advised Members that primary and secondary schools were being provided with online virtual lessons which had received very positive feedback. He also noted that the Education teams had been working on a package on fire safety for university students.
- 20/27.24 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved the performance for quarter 2.**
- 20/27.25 The Chair thanked GM Moody for his presentation. He also, due to GM Moody's retirement, thanked him for his service to the Swindon area over the years and wished him the very best.
- 20/28 Matters raised by Members**
- 20/28.1 No matters were raised.
- 20/29 Date of next meeting**
- 20/29.1 The next meeting of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee will take place on 23 February 2021 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.26hrs

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