



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at 10:00am on 25 February 2026 at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon.

Members present:

Cllr Abdul Amin (Chair)
Cllr Matthew Courtliff
Cllr Kevin Small

Officer attendance:

Area Manager (AM), Bradley Stevens
Group Manager (GM), Dave Slawinski
Democratic Services Manager, David Shaw

26/01 Welcome

26/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers. One member of the public was in attendance.

26/02 Apologies

26/02.1 All Members were in attendance.

26/03 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

26/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

26/04 Public questions

26/04.1 There was one member of the public in attendance. No public questions had been received.

26/05 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 November 2025

26/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

26/05.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

26/06 Action progress report

26/06.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 26 November 2025 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

26/06.2 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.

26/07 Performance monitoring and briefing

26/07.1 Area Manager (AM) Bradley Stevens and Group Manager (GM) Dave Slawinski 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](#).

It was noted that Performance Monitoring and Briefing was presented to the Committee by way of a Performance Dashboard for each of the priority areas supported by a presentation of the highlights of the service provision for the quarter. The data for year to date referred to quarter 3 – 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025 and was compared with the corresponding quarter in the previous year. When necessary, officers would provide additional detail to the Committee on an exception basis. It was clarified that the data presented was in Minutes and Seconds and included a five-year history. The quarterly data was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

26/07.2 Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.

26/07.3

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Number of accidental dwelling fires - Swindon Council	27	21
Number of home fire safety visits Quarterly – Swindon Council	274	Not Applicable
Number of safeguarding referrals from DWFRS- Swindon Council	22	Not Applicable

Initials _____

26/07.4 In reply to a question from Cllr Kevin Small regarding the methods of recording response times, AM Stevens provided detail on how these were recorded by the Service compared with other Fire and Rescue Services. It was noted that the Resources and Savings Team were giving consideration to alternative methods of recording response times. If it was decided to close Ramsbury Fire Station, the changes in response times would be reflected in the data for Swindon's wholetime fire stations.

26/07.5 In reply to Members' questions, the officers explained the role of the Service in responded to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). This would principally be responding to life risk or environmental risk. Training on dealing with the risks associated with electric cars was being undertaken to assist requests from the Police. There had been a slight increase in RTCs in quarter 3 and the Chair enquired if there were any accident blackspots. AM Stevens responded that these were considered by the Road Safety Partnerships, but the Service had seen an increase in low-speed incidents due to drivers' medical incidents.

26/07.6 The Chair enquired if there had been an impact on the Service following the reductions in staffing in the Prevention Team post service review. AM Stevens detailed the balancing of workloads for firefighters and the need for them to be safe and fully trained to respond to incidents as well as undertaking prevention visits and other required tasks.

26/07.7 Cllr Small requested that the improvements in response times for sleeping risk following the introduction of wholetime at Swindon Westlea fire Station be given publicity following a 12-month period of implementation to illustrate that the financial investment made had resulted in service improvement.

26/07.8 ACTION: That the improvements in response times for sleeping risk following the introduction of wholetime at Swindon be given publicity following a 12-month period of implementation.

26/07.9 **Priority 2 - protect you and the environment from harm**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Automatic fire alarms which result in a false alarm Quarterly - Swindon Council	228	222
Automatic fire alarms which result in a false alarm - non domestic premises - Swindon Council (year to date)	38	67
Number of business fire safety checks undertaken crews - Swindon Council	41	Not Applicable

26/07.10 In reply to the Chair's question, the officers explained the Service's approach to repeat non-domestic automatic fire alarms. Action was taken through call challenge but cases involving sleeping risk were responded to. In addition, the officers replied to the Chair's questions regarding the Protection Team's role in dealing with building regulation applications.

26/07.11 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

26/07.12 The quarterly data for Priority 3 was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

26/07.13 Following discussion, it was agreed that the dashboard information could be improved by the inclusion of narrative to help explain the number of persons rescued from fire related incidents and RTCs, for example to illustrate those led to safety.

26/07.14 The officers confirmed that one of the reasons for not obtaining 100 percent completion of training competencies could be due to staff sickness, although all competencies exceeded the operational target.

26/07.15 **Demand Summary**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date	
Number of fires attended - Swindon Council	70	71	
Number of special services incidents attended - Swindon Council	483	443	
Number of incidents attended which turned out to be false alarms - Swindon Council	300	264	

26/07.16 The quarterly data for the Demand Summary was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

26/07.17 **Presentation**

26/07.18 The officers provided a presentation on the Service's engagement in quarter 3. This included community engagement, multi-agency exercises and notable incidents attended. This included the Knife Amnesty at Swindon Fire Stations, which was being extended to include Stratton Fire Station by the provision of a knife surrender bin.

26/07.19 **ACTION: That the officers liaise with the Corporate Communications Team to publicise the Knife Amnesty initiative in the Swindon area, including determining the most suitable social media channels to reach the target audience, for example to include TikTok, and to include the Education Teams to target schools.**

26/07.20 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

26/07.21 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3 2026.

26/08 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

26/08.1 There were no matters raised by Members.

26/09 Date of Next meeting

26/09.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as Wednesday 26 August 2026 at 10:00am to be held at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon.

The meeting closed at 11.00

Signed: _____