



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at  
3:00pm on 25 March 2022 at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green,  
Westlea, SN5 7DB**

Members present:

Cllr Garry Perkins (Chair)  
Cllr Russell Holland  
Cllr Kevin Small

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole  
Group Manager (GM), Dave Adamson  
Senior Executive and Democratic Services Manager, Gemma Kelly

**22/01 Welcome**

22/01.1 Cllr Garry Perkins welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

**22/02 Apologies**

22/02.1 Apologies were received from Area Manager (AM), Seth Why.

**22/03 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests**

22/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**22/04 Public Questions**

22/04.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

**22/05 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 December 2021**

22/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

22/05.2 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as an accurate record.**

**22/06 Action Progress Report**

22/06.1 Group Manager (GM) Dave Adamson provided an update to the Committee on the following action:

22/06.2 Action 313 to invite Members to a service high rise exercise was ongoing whilst future exercise planning continued. GM Adamson gave Members advance notice of a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) exercise taking place in March, invites would be passed to Democratic Services for circulation. GM Adamson reported that the exercise was scheduled for 26 March 2022, and Members were welcome to attend. This action was therefore complete.

22/06.3 **RESOLVED: Members noted that action number 313 was complete.**

**22/07 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 3**

22/07.1 GM Adamson presented to Members the performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 3, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee. A link to the presentation is [here](#).

22/07.2 **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.

22/07.3 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

22/07.4 In reply to a Member's question regarding on-call availability, GM Adamson confirmed that availability was good for on-call firefighters in Stratton. On-call availability in Swindon was also improving. GM Adamson updated further that a female firefighter had recently joined Swindon and a 'have a go day' had been held which was targeted to females.

22/07.5 Cllr Kevin Small queried the on-call availability percentages. The Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Andy Cole confirmed this was an average across all appliances and could be equated to one appliance of the two available.

22/07.6 With regard to station risk profiles, GM Adamson confirmed that where incidents required partnership working with other agencies, local councillors were consulted.

- 22/07.7 Cllr Perkins queried the provision of fire safety information to managed quarantine services where English may not be the first language of those needing advice. ACFO Cole confirmed that for short stays this was managed by the hotel but supported by the service. Where Members had identified contacts in groups using the managed quarantine services, details could be passed to the service to assist this process.
- 22/07.8 Cllr Perkins queried the backlog of Safe & Well visits. ACFO Cole confirmed that this backlog was approximately 3000 visits across the service area and all were now completed.
- 22/07.9 **ACTION: GM Adamson to circulate cultural guides to Members for information.**
- 22/07.10 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 22/07.11 No matters were raised by Members in relation to priority 2.
- 22/07.12 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**
- 22/07.13 In response to a Member's query in relation to the reduction of attending automatic fire alarms at commercial premises, ACFO Cole advised that the current evaluation was giving a true indication of the savings and was under continual review. The 22 hours returned to wholtime crews was a very positive position.
- 22/07.14 A Member raised a concern regarding the increased cost of living and potential for members of the public to consider heating their houses in less conventional ways and storing of fuel during periods of panic buying etc. ACFO Cole confirmed that this was being considered by the prevention teams and by way of updated training for operational crews, including Safe and Well visits.
- 22/07.15 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3.**
- 22/08 Matters raised by Members (agreed with Chair)**
- 22/08.1 There were no matters raised by Members.

**22/09 Date of Next Meeting**

22/09.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as Wednesday 1 June 2022 at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 15:55pm

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