



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at  
10:00am on 8 September 2021 at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill  
Green, Westlea, SN5 7DB**

Members present:

Cllr Russell Holland  
Cllr Garry Perkins  
Cllr Kevin Small

Officer attendance:

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

**21/17 Election of Chair**

21/17.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Andy Cole opened the meeting. He asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Perkins was nominated by Cllr Small. This was seconded by Cllr Holland. A show of hands confirmed unanimous approval and Cllr Perkins was elected Chair.

21/17.2 **RESOLVED: Cllr Perkins be elected Chair of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee.**

**21/18 Welcome**

21/18.1 Cllr Perkins welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

**21/19 Apologies**

21/19.1 Apologies were received from Area Manager Seth Why and Group Manager Greg Izon.

**21/20 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business**

21/20.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**21/21 Public Questions**

21/21.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

**21/22 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) meeting on 3 June 2021**

21/22.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/22.2 Cllr Holland commented that he had been present at the meeting as an observer

21/22.3 **RESOLVED: That subject to Cllr Holland being recorded as present at the meeting as an observer, the minutes be confirmed and be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

**21/23 Action Progress Report**

21/23.1 Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole, provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:

21/23.2 Action 313 regarding inviting Members to a Service high rise exercise. A programme of exercises would be forwarded to Swindon Members for their notification.

21/23.3 Action 321 and the sharing of the fire setting awareness video. The educational material regarding fire setting would be resent via email to Members and it was agreed that the action was completed.

21/23.4 Action 322 on making available the data regarding fire setter demographics and links to criminality through the fire setters programme. This item would be carried forward to the next LPS meeting.

21/23.5 Action 323 on the sharing of 'Safe and Well' information and available literature with Members to enable Cllrs to make referrals when required. This item would be carried forward to the next LPS meeting.

21/23.6 **RESOLVED: Members noted the pending actions on numbers 313, 322, 323 and agreed to close item 321 as complete.**

**21/24 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 1**

21/24.1 GM Wayne Presley presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 1, 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](#).

21/24.2 **Priority 1** Help you to make safer and healthier choices.

21/24.3 In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Andy Cole explained that the Service was involved as part of a multi-agency response, in bringing a managed quarantine hotel facility online in Swindon for people returning from red list coronavirus countries.

21/24.4 In answer to Members' questions regarding that, in respect of quarter 1, on-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 56.1% of the time in the Swindon Group, GM Wayne Presley and ACFO Andy Cole explained how the Service was delivered in the Swindon area and how resilience was maintained between the whole time and on-call elements. A target figure of 80% was the objective for On Call appliances. Operational resilience was maintained by fire control using on-call appliances to ensure there was sufficient disposition of resources across the group at all times, including when wholtime appliances are engaged at incidents which occur in the Swindon area. Service availability in each station was considered, including urban and rural stations. ACFO Andy Cole explained that a bespoke action plan to maintain and improve availability to respond to incidents was being developed for each station. Members were assured that service provision between urban and rural areas was given full and detailed consideration.

21/24.5 Regarding the Home Fire Safety Survey, ACFO Andy Cole explained that this had been undertaken on-line and, at the request of Members, he stated that GM Wayne Presley would contact the Education Team and forward the data to Swindon Members. A Member commented that the survey data would be of assistance in adding value to the Cllrs' role in supporting the Service.

21/24.6 A Member drew attention to the youth intervention SPECTRA programme. It was noted that the dates for the programme would be forwarded to Members.

- 21/24.7 Following a Member's question regarding the Firesetters Scheme, which is an early intervention programme that aims to reduce fire setting behaviour in young people, GM Presley outlined the types of individuals and agencies that made referrals. ACFO Andy Cole commented that although the figures for fire setters had decreased, as schools were a primary referral source, it may well increase now that schools were returning after the easing of lockdown measures. Following debate, Members agreed that details of the referral scheme be sent to Annette Perrington, Director of Inclusion and Achievement, at Swindon Borough Council in order that it could be brought to the attention of school heads.
- 21/24.8 **Priority 2** Protect you and the environment from harm.
- 21/24.9 In answer to Members' questions, ACFO Andy Cole explained that thirty-one whole time attendance hours had been saved in quarter 1 through the new approach of not attending automatic fire alarms between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm. It was expected that the number of automatic fire alarms would increase now that businesses were returning to work following the easing of lockdown measures and that the new policy would deliver further savings.
- 21/24.10 In reply to a question by Cllr Small, ACFO Andy Cole, stated that he would forward to the Cllr details of the Authority's response to Swindon Borough Council's Local Plan building regulation consultations in its role as a consultee.
- 21/24.11 **Priority 3** Be there when you need us.
- 21/24.12 In answer to a Member's question made in the light of the findings of the M9 Scotland fatal road accident and the resulting criticism of the actions of the Police Call Centre, ACFO Andy Cole gave details of the methodology of the handling of Service calls. He added that the Service also learnt lessons from national incidents which were shared via a central data base.
- 21/24.13 In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Andy Cole replied that call outs that did not meet the average response standard within the travel time isochrone of 10 minutes for incidents at sleeping risk properties were examined. This was the case in four cases out of the thirty-six incidents in quarter 1. Members noted the average response time for incidents at sleeping risk properties, within the travel time isochrone, across Swindon group in quarter 1 was 6 minutes and 34 seconds. Members complimented the Service on its average response time for incidents, particularly considering the high number of road diversions that were in place in Swindon.
- 21/24.14 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

- 21/24.15      **ACTION: GM Wayne Presley to contact the Education Team regarding the Home Fire Safety survey and forward the data to Swindon Members.**
- 21/24.16      **ACTION: ACFO Andy Cole to send details of the fire setter referral scheme to Annette Perrington, Director of Inclusion and Achievement at Swindon Borough Council, in order that it could be brought to the attention of school heads.**
- 21/24.17      **ACTION: ACFO Andy Cole to forward to Cllr Small details of the Service's response to Swindon Borough Council's Local Plan.**
- 21/24.18      **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 1.**

**21/25            Matters raised by Members (agreed with Chair)**

- 21/25.1        Cllr Holland enquired about the role that could be undertaken by Cllrs to highlight the work of the Authority and to raise public awareness. He made reference to Cllrs' social media which could be linked with the community fire work that was already being undertaken by the Service.
- 21/25.2        Cllr Perkins asked that details of the multi-agency water rescue exercise at Lechlade to be held on Sunday 12 September 2021 be forwarded to Swindon Members.
- 21/25.3        **ACTION: GM Presley to forward to Swindon members details of the Lechlade multiagency water rescue exercise.**

**21/26            Date of Next Meeting**

- 21/26.1        The Chair confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 1 December 2021 at 10:00am at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green, Westlea, SN5 7DB.

The meeting closed at 10:55

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