



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on
2 September 2021 at 10:00am Trowbridge Fire Station, Hilperton Road,
Trowbridge.**

Members present:

Cllr Brian Dalton
Cllr Bob Jones
Cllr Kelvin Nash
Cllr Paul Oatway
Cllr Ashley O'Neill
Cllr Pip Ridout

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Wayne Presley
Democratic Services, Gemma Kelly
Democratic Services, David Shaw

21/18 Election of Chair

21/18.1 ACFO Andy Cole asked for nominations for committee chair. Cllr Paul Oatway nominated Cllr Pip Ridout. Cllr Ashley O'Neill seconded the nomination for Cllr Ridout. Cllr Brian Dalton nominated Councillor Bob Jones who seconded his own nomination. Members voted by majority for electing Cllr Ridout as Committee Chair.

21/18.2 Cllr Ridout nominated Cllr Kelvin Nash as Vice-Chair, this nomination was seconded by Paul Oatway with no other nominations.

21/18.3 RESOLVED: Cllr Ridout was elected as Committee Chair and Cllr Nash as Committee Vice-Chair for the year 2021-22

21/19 Welcome

21/19.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members.

21/20 Apologies

21/20.1 No apologies were received.

21/21 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest

21/21.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

21/22 Public questions

21/22.1 No questions were submitted to the Committee.

21/23 Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire LPS meeting on 27 May 2021

21/23.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/23.2 RESOLVED: the minutes were confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.

21/24 Action progress report

21/24.1 AM Seth Why took Members through the Action Progress report discussing three outstanding actions.

21/24.2 Action 292 to ensure Members are informed and invited to all relevant events was in progress. As events were opened following the release of pandemic restrictions, these would be circulated to Members. Cllr Ridout requested that invites circulated include the Safe Drive Stay Alive, carnivals and SPECTRA youth programme events.

21/24.3 Action 315 was outstanding for Cllr Oatway in relation to obtaining funding for courses from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Cllr Oatway suggested that now a new PCC was in post this action may be more appropriate for strategic leaders of the service to progress at this time. This action was completed.

21/24.4 Action 326 was to include water related incident data for future performance reports and AM Why updated that this would form part of the performance presentation. This action was completed.

21/25 Performance monitoring and briefing

21/25.1 GM Wayne Presley delivered the Group 2 performance presentation as per the link below. Discussions were noted as follows:

[Wiltshire LPS Presentation Q4](#)

21/25.2 Priority one - making safer and healthier choices

21/25.3 Cllr Bob Jones queried the on-call pay scheme protection. GM Presley confirmed this was a three year pay protection scheme which started in October 2020. ACFO Cole confirmed that the service continued to monitor this position; there were not a large number who sat under the pay protection scheme and the service also continued to improve retention of on-call staff members. Cllr Jones commented that at the end of the three-year period, there could be a drop in staff. ACFO Cole confirmed this was not a concern and if this happened the impact would not be significant.

21/25.4 Cllr Oatway queried the status of on-call recruitment. GM Presley confirmed that training was returning to normal. In addition, there were five key stations requiring targeted recruitment campaigns. These were Bradford-On-Avon, Ramsbury, Tisbury, Mere and Amesbury. The 'Have-A-Go' days had been successful in this regard. Cllr Ridout asked that Members were invited to Have A Go days for their support.

21/25.5 Cllr Jones asked that previous quarter data was included in brackets in the presentation to provide context to the performance data.

21/25.6 Cllr Nash queried on-call availability and response to incidents. ACFO Cole confirmed that all incidents were responded to but the number referred to the availability only.

21/25.7 GM Presley confirmed there was an on-call recruitment day ongoing at Tisbury to target those in the Army rebasing programme, details would be sent to Members.

21/25.8 Cllr Oatway queried the cost of the SPECTRA course. ACFO Cole confirmed that it costs approximately £6000 for a group of 12 (£500 per child). Members would take this information to the appropriate area boards for promoting. In addition, Station Managers would provide more information at area boards.

21/25.9 ACFO Cole provided an update with regards to the backlog of safe and well visits. With the measures in place to clear this backlog, progress had been good and 78% of this has been cleared as of the end of 27 August 2021.

21/25.10 **ACTION: Members to be invited to Have A Go days to support the recruitment campaigns where possible.**

21/25.11 **ACTION: GM Presley to include previous quarter data to future performance presentations.**

21/25.12 Priority two – protecting you and the environment from harm

21/25.13 AM Why gave an update with regards to Automatic Fire Alarms – any low risk commercial premises would not be attended overnight unless a fire was reported. In quarter one this had provided a saving £2,925 in on-call attendance.

21/25.14 GM Presley confirmed there were no outstanding actions from the prohibition and enforcement notices at this time, these were ongoing.

21/25.15 Priority 3 - being there when you need us

21/25.16 Cllr Nash queried the target for on call appliance availability; ACFO Cole confirmed this was 80% and was managed at individual station level.

21/25.17 Cllr Oatway asked for an update on making Amesbury a full-time station. ACFO Cole confirmed this was very dependent on funding. Cllr Oatway confirmed that he would canvass his Member of Parliament (MPs) regarding the council tax flexibility and asked other Members to do the same. Cllr Nash asked for a briefing document to provide a consistent message.

21/25.18 In relation to competencies in date, the context was the reduction of training during the pandemic; this would increase now that training was back up to full capacity.

21/25.19 In relation to fire deaths, the figure had been unusually high but, for context, the deaths reported were part of the same incident. The small numbers increased the percentage disproportionately. A discussion ensued regarding the road traffic incident at Derry Hill and it was concluded that there was no additional learning for the fire service in relation to these deaths or this incident.

21/25.20 Cllr Nash discussed an incident that took place at Bromham Social Centre and queried an issue with water supply. ACFO Cole confirmed that this information would form part of the structured debrief.

21/25.21 ACFO Cole confirmed that the new Local Resilience Forum Chair for Wiltshire was retired ACFO Jim Mahoney, which would go further to improve the already positive relationships in place.

21/25.22 **ACTION: Democratic Services to provide Members with bullet points outlining the consistent message regarding the council tax flexibility in order to canvass their Members of Parliament.**

21/25.23 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and commented upon the performance for quarter one.**

21/26 Technical rescue verbal update

21/26.1 This was a standing item for Wiltshire LPS. ACFO Cole confirmed the process of transition was ongoing and progressing well. Crews from Trowbridge and Chippenham were supporting the training of the crews at Stratton and the service was on target to introduce this fully in ten months time.

21/26.2 Cllr Jones stated that he would like this item to stay on the agenda for the next ten months; this is seconded by Cllr Ridout and Cllr Oatley. GM Presley confirmed there were two incidents in the last quarter needing technical rescue assistance. ACFO Cole confirmed that the changes would not make any difference to incidents in the same place at the same time next year.

21/27 Matters raised by Members / AOB

21/27.1 Cllr Nash asked if the service's approach to road fires was changing given changes to vehicles, such as new electric vehicles. AM Why confirmed that appliances had this data to hand in relation to attending incidents involving electric fires. AM Why added that national operational guidance was circulated nationally and DWFRS had contributed to this guidance.

21/27.2 No further matters were raised. GM Presley would invite Members to the SPECTRA presentation in Wiltshire.

21/28 Date of Next meeting

21/28.1 The next meeting of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee would take place on Thursday 2 December at 10.00am.

Signed: _____