DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item 06

MEETING	Wiltshire Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF MEETING	1 September 2016
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Performance for 1st Quarter – 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For information and approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	The concept of Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees was approved by Members at Shadow Authority on 23 October 2015 and the content and approach was approved by Members at the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority Meeting on 23 June 2016. The principle was to provide a mechanism for ensuring local accountability, focus and on-going support for matters relating to the geographical areas of the five constituent local authorities. Since October a number of Member briefing sessions have been held to explore the concept and the scope of these innovative committees and examine the mechanism for local reporting and scrutiny including a demonstration of the reporting tool. This paper sets out the performance achieved for 1st Quarter covering the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016.
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to fully consider, develop and implement legal and effective governance arrangements will present significant risks to the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Key amongst these risks are legal compliance, effective leadership and clarity of relationships between Members and officers.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	The Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority previously agreed that the governance arrangements should include Performance and Scrutiny Committees based upon the geography of the constituent authorities. These are innovative arrangements and they are designed to ensure that within a larger combined authority there is still a clear, local focus and greater local accountability.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	There are no budgetary implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are asked to scrutinise and approve performance for 1st Quarter
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None
APPENDICES	Appendix A – Key Lines of Enquiry Baseline Assessment Appendix B – Performance Report for 1st Quarter

REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Gus Cuthbert, Area Commander Wiltshire Tel: 01722 691226

1. Introduction

1.1 The concept of Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees was recommended to the Shadow Authority on 23 October 2015. The principle was to provide a mechanism for ensuring local accountability, focus and on-going support for matters relating to the geographical areas of the five constituent local authorities. At their meeting on 23 June 2016, Members of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority approved the process for running of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees.

1.2 This meeting also approved the agenda for the running of these Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee Meetings. This agenda explains that performance for each quarter will be scrutinised and approved by Members.

2. Key Lines of Enquiry

2.1 The formation of Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees in an innovative concept, which is intended to ensure local accountability and performance monitoring within a larger fire and rescue authority.

2.2 Following on from the approval of the concept, it was felt that it would be useful to hold a number of briefing sessions for Members of each Local performance and Scrutiny Committee. In the intervening months two sessions have been held as the concept has been further developed. The first involved a broader overview of the concept and the scope of the committees, whilst the second focussed on the mechanism for local reporting and scrutiny including a demonstration of the reporting tool.

2.3 Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority have previously decided that reporting and scrutinising performance should be based around the four strategic priorities. Local Performance & Scrutiny Committees review and scrutinise performance against the following three priorities, while Finance and Audit review performance against the fourth priority – Making every penny count:

- Help you to make safer and healthier choices
- Protect you and the environment from harm
- Be there when you need us

2.4 Part of this innovative approach to reporting and scrutiny has been to anchor reporting to specific Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs). Each of the Strategic Priorities is supported by 4 KLOEs, which are designed to pose specific questions, which in answering, provide Members with an evidence base to explain what has been put in place to deliver the priorities and show how Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is changing and saving the lives of residents in Bournemouth, Poole, Dorset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

2.5 A baseline assessment has been completed against each KLOE and the evidence collected for each KLOEs has been assessed against three levels – Developing, Established and Advanced to determine the overall level of performance that has been achieved and details of the KLOEs, the baseline assessment and an assessment of the level achieved is set out in Appendix A.

2.6 It is suggested that Members approve the evidence base and assessment level at the first meeting and review progress once each year. This will explain and outline to residents, partners and the wider community what is being done to improve the safety and well-being of all our communities.

3. Quarterly Reporting

3.1 The evidence base supporting each KLOE is, by its nature, mostly generic across the four areas – Bournemouth and Poole, Dorset, Swindon and Wiltshire. It is important therefore that each Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee also receives a quarterly report which will be an update on the specific outcomes that have been achieved within the Area. These outcomes will be explained in a narrative for each KLOE supported by Key Performance Indicators.

3.2 To effectively report on performance at a local level, we have therefore developed a performance/activity management, monitoring and assurance system that provides for line of sight, integration and interrogation from workplace to Fire Authority Level. This approach will be a key part of Local Performance and Scrutiny Meetings that will provide our local communities with a means and understanding to engage and scrutinise the performance of their local services.

3.3 Members will have access to a dedicated Members Dashboard, accessed through our website. This dashboard concept was outlined as part of the first Members briefing session and demonstrated at the second briefing session. Details of the dashboard and log on details will be circulated to Members prior to the first formal meeting of the Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee and Members will also receive additional support during the first meeting.

3.4 Over time, it is anticipated that Members will prefer to use the Members Dashboard as the sole means of reporting and scrutinising of performance and it is also anticipated that a dedicated view will be created so that residents, partners and the wider community can also review performance in this way.

3.5 Current Standing Orders require the formal publication of a written report prior to each meeting of the Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee and Appendix B contains the quarterly report on performance for the 1st Quarter (1 April 2016 – 30 June 2016).

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to consider and approve:

- The level of the baseline assessment against the Key Lines of Enquiry set out in Appendix A
- The Quarterly Performance Report set out in Appendix B

5. Conclusion

5.1 Members will I hope agree that providing transparency and accountability of performance over 2,500 square miles with such a diverse risk was never going to be easy. The use of the Local Performance & Scrutiny Committees is an innovative approach to reporting performance. This has been supported by a fresh look at the process by which Members receive performance information. We anticipate that these innovative approaches will provide an easier means for Members to receive performance information and hold Officers to account and also provide our local communities with a means and understanding to engage and scrutinise the performance of their local services.