



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Item 17/17

MEETING	Dorset Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF MEETING	5 September 2017
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Performance for Quarter 1 – 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For information and approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	The concept of Local Performance & 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. This paper sets out the performance achieved for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter covering the period 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017.
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to fully consider, develop and implement legal and effective governance arrangements will present significant risks to the Dorset & 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 1. scrutinise and approve performance for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter and 2. to approve the baseline assessment for 2017/18
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None
APPENDICES	Appendix A – Performance Report for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Appendix B – Baseline Assessment for 2017/18
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The concept of Local Performance & 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 (The Authority) approved the process for running of the Local Performance & 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 & Scrutiny Committees is an innovative concept, which is intended to ensure local accountability and performance monitoring within a larger fire and rescue authority.
- 2.2 Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority have previously decided that reporting and scrutinising performance should be based around the five strategic priorities. Local Performance & Scrutiny Committees review and scrutinise performance against the following three priorities, while Finance and Audit review performance against the fourth and fifth priorities – Making every penny count and Supporting and Developing our People:
- Making safer and healthier choices
  - Protecting you and the environment from harm
  - Being there when you need us
- 2.3 Part of this innovative approach to reporting and scrutiny has been to anchor reporting to specific Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). Each of the Strategic Priorities is supported by four 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.
- 2.4 A baseline assessment was completed for 2016/17 against each KLOE and the evidence collected for each KLOE has been assessed against three levels – Developing, Established and Advanced to determine the overall level of performance that has been achieved. The baseline assessment for 2017/18 is contained as Appendix B.

- 2.5 This assessment explains and outlines 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 are 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 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 is a key part of Local Performance & Scrutiny Meetings and provides our local communities with a means and understanding to engage and scrutinise the performance of their local services.
- 3.3 Current Standing Orders require the formal publication of a written report prior to each meeting of the Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee and Appendix A contains the quarterly report on performance for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (1 April 2017 – 30 June 2017).

### **4. Summary & key points**

- 4.1 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.

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