



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**DRAFT Minutes of the
Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee
held at 10:00 hours on Tuesday 29 August 2017
at the
Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green, Westlea, SN5 7DB**

These are draft minutes prepared by officers to be approved by the Swindon LPS Committee at their next meeting.

Members present: Cllr Steven Allsopp, Cllr Abdul Amin, Cllr Colin Lovell (Chairman), Cllr Nick Martin, Cllr Garry Perkins,

Officer attendance: ACFO Jim Mahoney, AM Craig Baker; Head of Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management, Mr Robert Ford; Performance & Evaluation Manager, Ms Jane Barnes; Democratic Services Officer, Mrs Marianne Taylor.

17/10 Election of Chairman

17/10.1 The ACFO opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. The ACFO asked for nominations to the role of chairman and Cllr Colin Lovell was nominated, seconded and agreed unanimously.

17/10.2 **RESOLVED: Cllr Colin Lovell be chairman of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee.**

17/11 Welcome

17/11.1 The Chairman thanked Members for their confidence in him and welcomed the new Member, Cllr Steve Allsopp to his first Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee meetings.

17/12 Apologies

17/12.1 Apologies were received from GM Glyn Moody

17/13 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

17/13.1 The Chairman asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

17/14 Public Questions

17/14.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions were received.

17/15 Review and approve the Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2 March 2017.

17/15.1 The Chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

17/15.2 **RESOLVED: Minutes were approved as an accurate record with no amendments.**

17/16 Performance report for the first quarter

17/16.1 Head of Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management, Mr Robert Ford, took Members through Appendix B, Baseline Assessment, and outlined the approach taken by the Service and the management of the report (Service Delivery Plan 2017–18). He added that this gives Members the opportunity to scrutinise and discuss the performance by which the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) are set.

17/16.2 At the beginning of each financial year the KLOEs are refreshed for each of the five priorities. Mr Ford took members through how the performance is set and what happens next. The approach looks at where we are now, where we want to be and how to get there. He added that the target is set at developing, established and advanced for all KLOEs and managed through staff reviews, team meetings and the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). This then enables the Service to manage expectation and demand whilst remaining flexible to new risks.

17/16.3 Mr Ford handed over the Area Manager, Craig Baker, for the remainder of the performance report.

17/16.4 AM Baker took Members through the 1st Quarters Performance Report for Swindon Local Performance & Scrutiny (Appendix A) adding the Grenfell Towers Tragedy in London had resulted in resources being diverted to activities related to this within the Service area.

- 17/16.5 The three priorities that AM Baker has responsibility for in his area are:
Priority 1 Help you make safer and healthier choices
Priority 2 Protect you and the environment from harm, and
Priority 3 Be there when you need us.
 Adding that his area covers Swindon, Bournemouth and Poole.
- 17/16.6 As a partner, the Borough is focussed on local work including homelessness as an active member of the Swindon partnership. There are two permanent safe and well officers in the borough who are working closely with Swindon Borough Council.
- 17/16.7 **Priority 1**
 Work in this priority includes attending and engaging with pupils at local schools, holding cadet meetings, attending and running Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) events. He explained the nature of the incidents within the built up area and what SDSA does to help relieve these numbers and fire fighters are always pleased to hear about survivors wellbeing.
- 17/16.8 Safe & Well visits take place and referrals come through and the team have undertaken 238 visits in the quarter. The Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) is being relaunched, and referrals come from Air Liquide about vulnerable people who have oxygen supplied to their homes. Officers and staff are provided with a range of awareness and training on Safeguarding.
- 17/16.9 **Priority 2**
 The Service had carried out a great deal of work following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in June and AM Baker expects there will be more as and when results from the public enquiry are known. The ACFO added that they expect outcomes to be circulated from this autumn, some of which will relate to humanitarian issues such as providing for displaced persons.
- 17/16.10 There is on-going work with the Environment Agency (EA) on the impact of recycling sites/waste sites. Work is also ongoing to identifying derelict buildings to ensure they are secure, thus reducing the risk of a fire starting, either accidentally or deliberately.
- 17.16.11 **Priority 3**
 A number of resourcing issues has affected fire appliance availability and a recruitment programme is ongoing which means that Westlea Fire Station is fully manned. These issues affect the time it takes for an appliance to arrive at incidents, however, as was discussed, all attendance over 10 minutes is investigated. The ACFO reassured Members that Swindon conurbation has undergone scrutiny through Integrated Risk Management programme (IRMP) to ensure the right resources are in place. The AM added that operational competencies (licence to operate) for whole time and on-call firefighters are up to date.

17/16.12 **RESOLVED: Having scrutinised the report (Appendix A), Members approved the performance for the 1st Quarter.**

17/16.13 **RESOLVED: Members approved the Baseline Assessment 2017-18 (Appendix B)**

17/17 Briefing from Area Commander

17/17.1 AM Baker went through his presentation highlighting waste fires and the work that owners and other agencies carry out to reduce further threats. The Service is focussing on ensuring that the correct training is provided for attendance at high rise properties, including educating landlords. The Service sends a minimum of six appliances to reports of fire incidents in high-rise buildings. The incidents of deliberate fires has risen; day-to-day behaviour, like cooking, is still a big aspect of accidental dwelling fires; and deliberate fires involving empty buildings are high on the risk agenda

17/17.2 Awards have been given to teams for their work during and after the Manchester Road incident. European funding (£278,000) will be going to high areas of immigration to provide support and focus for language barriers, rogue landlords, rough sleeping data and evidence gathering.

17/17.3 Cllr Amin extended his thanks to the team for attendance at an event with the Muslim community in Swindon. On-going events like Bike Safe, have taken place as part of partnering with other agencies. Firefighters who attend to carry out safety checks are also checking for external cladding to buildings. Water safety, flooding and rivers have also been focussed upon, Members raised concerns about DWFRS having an input into flooding and flood plain development, AM Baker said this was an area of specialise for the EA.

17/18 Issues from Members (agreed with Chairman)

17/18.1 There were no issues raised by Members.

17/19 Date of Next Meeting

17/19.1 The Chairman confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 16 November 2017 at Westlea Fire Station, Swindon.

Meeting closed: 11:45

Signed: _____