



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the
Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting
held at 10:00 hours on Thursday 2 March 2017 at the
DWFRS Westlea Fire Station, Swindon**

Members present: Cllr Joe Tray (Chairman); Cllr Nick Martin; Cllr Colin Lovell; Cllr Garry Perkins.

Officer attendance: ACFO Jim Mahoney; AM Craig Baker; GM Glyn Moody; Head of Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management, Mr Bob Ford; Democratic Service Officer, Mrs Marianne Taylor.

17/1 Welcome

17/1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees including Cllr Colin Lovell to this his first local performance & scrutiny meeting.

17/2 Apologies

17/2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Abdul Amin; Performance Manager, Jane Barnes

17/3 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

17/3.1 The Chairman asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

17/4 Public Questions

17/4.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

17/5 Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 24 November 2016.

17/5.1 The Chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

17/5.2 Members confirmed their approval of minutes with no amendments. Actions from the last meeting were complete and an update was provided to Members.

17/5.3 **Resolved: Minutes for the meeting on 2 September were confirmed as accurate.**

17/6 Performance for 3rd Quarter

17/6.1 AM Baker introduced the presentation and GM Glyn Moody who supported him with local knowledge during this presentation and at the briefing later on the agenda.

17/6.2 AM Baker provided members with information highlighting the work undertaken in the area for the 3rd Quarter which included Salamander and Salamander + courses, reaching 1093 children through schools, however these was still some ongoing difficulty with schools finding time on their busy curriculum to hold Safe Drive Stay Alive events (SDSA). AM Baker went on to provide information about the Salamander +, which is aimed at job seekers and helps to build confidence, team building and other skills, including first aid training and CV writing.

17/6.3 Following the very tragic events of Manchester Road, AM Baker provided information about the increased numbers of safe & well (249) visits during November 2016 and the improved communications across a range of communities. In total 419 safe & well visits had taken place across the Swindon area in the 3rd quarter.

17/6.4 Swindon area are also working with a number of partners to improve access to vulnerable people's homes; including a provider of oxygen for those with breathing difficulties. Referral numbers are expected to increase as a result of one of the charity partners (VAS) agreeing in principal to managing Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) and the new database for the Swindon area.

17/6.5 Members were provided with information about the recently acquired portable misting unit and shown a demonstration of this in action via a YouTube clip.

17/6.6 Safe Drive Stay Alive events at schools has resulted in the Service reaching 2400 students across Swindon with 2 schools yet to participate. AM Baker was pleased to report this as there had been a funding cut.

- 17/6.7 Both Network Rail and Southern Electric have hosted presentations and information about safe driving, including driving when tired, at their conferences recently.
- 17/6.8 AM Baker advised Members that he and GM Moody have a presence at Safeguarding Boards and have attended domestic abuse MARAC case conferences on a regular basis.
- 17/6.9 In the last quarter AM Baker advised there had been one prohibition notice served and the Service was working, alongside environmental health and others, with the recipient. It related to access to and from sleeping accommodation above shop premises.
- 17/6.10 AM Baker went on to explain there had been two building regulations consultations; 14 fire safety audits; and on-going contributions to building regulations; 68 unwanted fire signals which came from a range of organisations including care homes, hostels and shops.
- 17/6.11 AM Baker advised that the Service had been working with Environment Health Officers and Estate Agents to combat empty homes concerns. They have also been working with local groups to provide fire safety education to asylum seekers and refugees. A funding bid is also being put together to help with this work.
- 17/6.12 AM Baker and GM Moody provided response times and explained that there had been a dip in the overall percentage, which were being tracked and monitored. Members discussed this with Officer and were content with the reasons given for the change. ACFO Jim Mahoney advised that both officers have been studying the reasons and acting on outcomes. He further advised them of a review which will be taking place on the location of fire stations across the Service area. Members are keen to see improved response times and will continue to monitor them closely.
- 17/6.13 Having scrutinised the performance for the 3rd quarter Members approved the performance.
- 17/6.14 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved the 3rd quarter performance.**

17/7 Briefing from the Area Commander

- 17/7.1 AM Baker introduced the briefing and advised Members of the work that had been started in January, following agreement, on aligning and harmonising watch and shift patterns across the Service area. The alignment work would result in common leave time, training tours, crewing numbers, continuous professional development, and development payments to firefighters. This work, started in January, will continue until April 2017.

- 17/7.2 GM Moody took Members through the rest of the presentation covering what was a busy quarter with a number of incidents requiring between four and eight appliances in attendance and commensurate investigations. The Swindon firefighters had attended a number of road traffic collisions (RTC) including three in one weekend.
- 17/7.3 GM Moody advised Members that the area officers had been working in the Nepalese and Goan communities; and engaged with a number of religious and cultural community leaders to provide fire safety messages to their communities.
- 17/7.4 The Briefing was completed by GM Moody giving an insight into the number and variety of community based partners that officers and advisers work with on a daily basis. This adds strength to the messages on prevention and protection as well as collaborative working with those agencies.

17/8 Issues raised by Members

- 17/8.1 No issues were raised by Members.

17/9 Date of Next Meeting

- 17/9.1 The Chairman confirmed with Members the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 24 May 2017 at DWFRS Westlea Fire Station, Swindon.

The meeting closed at 11:35 hours.

Signed: _____