



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the
Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee
held at 10:00 hours on Friday 3 March 2017 at the
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Salisbury**

Members present: Cllr Chris Devine (Chairman); Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Bob Jones, Cllr Graham Payne Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Bridget Wayman

Officer attendance: ACFO Mick Stead; ACFO Jim Mahoney; Head of Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management, Mr Bob Ford; DC Jason Moncrieff; and Democratic Services Officer, Marianne Taylor.

17/1 Welcome

17/1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed ACFO Jim Mahoney and DC Jason Moncrieff to their first Wiltshire LPS Committee meeting.

17/2 Apologies

17/2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Edge; Cllr Christopher Newbury; Cllr John Knight; Performance Manager, Ms Jenny Barnes; AM Gus Cuthbert.

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.

17/3.2 Cllr Bridget Wayman declared her interest in Selwood Homes as a non-executive director.

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 Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23 November 2017

- 17/5.1 The chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 17/5.2 Actions from the Minutes were reviewed: Action 8.18.14 - Cllr Wayman updated Members on the outcome; The chairman asked ACFO Stead to send information about schools to relevant Members. The original action is to be marked as completed; Action 8.18.15 to be marked completed following a verbal update.
- 17/5.3 **RESOLVED: Member approved the Minutes of the meeting on 23 November 2017 with no amendments.**
- 17/5.4 **ACTION: ACFO Stead to send school information to relevant Members.**
- 17/5.5 **ACTION: Democratic Services to mark previous actions as complete.**

17/6 Performance for 3rd Quarter

- 17/6.1 ACFO Jim Mahoney introduced the presentation, and DC Jason Moncrieff, who would support him with local knowledge during the presentation and at the briefing later on the agenda.
- 17/6.2 ACFO Mahoney advised Members that school visits had taken place which had resulted in engagement with 3542 children through school visits; Salamander and Salamander + (working with the Job Centre) events had also taken place. He added that Advisors had worked with 6 young people on the Junior fire Setters Course and there had been no re-offending.
- 17/6.3 The Service had also completed 445 Safe & Well visits, worked with partners to support the Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) database which will be managed by VAS and SAIL initiative are already in place in Warminster and Trowbridge which is expected to expand across Wiltshire; smarter working enables the Service to reach more vulnerable people; in parts of the Wiltshire area the Service will be running a pilot on delivering of prescription medication which in turn will enable the Service to target safe & well visits to the most vulnerable. ACFO Stead outlined how the pilot will work with health service on outcomes, alongside local pharmacies and GPs. In Wiltshire the aim is to have one advisor for each area health board.
- 17/6.4 ACFO Mahoney advised that the Service provide heaters and other aids to help vulnerable people in their homes. He added that positive interventions from Members and Officers with Selwood homes, and others, means they will retain sprinklers in their new build properties.
- 17/6.5 In the Wiltshire area the Service works with homeless agencies, drug and alcohol agencies as well as canal boat occupiers and providers of oxygen

system for those discharged from hospital with breathing issues. Members were concerned about how Control obtain the locations of canal boat fires using markers and bridge numbers. ACFO Mahoney confirmed that the Service have visited every 'live on board' boat currently based along the canal.

- 17/6.6 The Chairman asked ACFO Mahoney to return at the next meeting with regard to outcomes and how our crews work to identify locations of moored up vessels in order for emergency response crews to better locate boats when required. ACFO Stead suggested that perhaps the rural safety team could attend to give a presentation which would include this detail.
- 17/6.7 ACFO Mahoney went on to say Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) roadshows have been delivered to 6000 students and 2800 soldiers in Wiltshire. Advice about drink drive and mobile phone use has been presented at roadshows; the Service has also worked with Network Rail to support SDSA following some incidents involving their staff, the focus was on driving when tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and that there is a joint approach for all initiatives on prevention, which included the Police.
- 17/6.8 Other agencies that the Service works with in Wiltshire include working with the Alzheimer Society to provide operational staff with dementia awareness training; the service has made 8 adults referrals within safeguarding. The Service is asking for information to be put on care plans about referring to the Service's safe and well advisors.
- 17/6.9 ACFO Mahoney went through the statistical information relating to fire in the area which included seven arson attacks and seven significant fires. The Service had carried out a range of preventative work including a business fire safety week in November.
- 17/6.10 No fire related deaths have been reported in the Wiltshire area for Quarter 3 however there have been five minor fire related injuries due to the use of smoking materials in bed, and cooking or heating.
- 17/6.11 ACFO Mahoney provided members with information relating to response times and a review of the retained duty system which is underway as part of the Services IRMP. He went on to say the service has a strong working relationship with the LRF, Police, health and other partners. And are also working with the Environment Agency (EA) on flooding and flood defence and relief in order to protect homes and key risk areas.
- 17/6.12 Station Managers monitor availability of appliances on a regular basis, including where there are concerns about attendance; attendance performance is down from the last quarter and this was as result of calls to areas outside the Services ability to attend within 10 minutes. The aim of the Service is to improve the times, where it is possible to do so
- 17/6.13 Sometimes joint firefighter training can have an impact on the ability of appliances to attend within 10 minutes but the training is necessary.

Members discussed the operational comparisons for other areas within the Service and recognised that Salisbury Plain covered a large area. Jim explained 'isochrones' and how they work – an isochrone is about the operational ability for an appliance to respond within a radius of a 10-minute drive time to an incident from the fire station. He went on to outline the RDS review and the approach being taken by the Service, which will also form part of the Thomas Review update to the Authority at their meeting on 9 March. Members indicated they would be happy with a pragmatic approach being taken for firefighter education entry levels.

- 17/6.14 Members asked for the presentation to be provided to them with the removal of some technical wording.
- 17/6.15 Competence levels are good with operational licences at 94.8% for wholetime and 75.3% retained firefighters. The Service is looking at a new competence recording system that will provide better understanding and integration of operational information with the ability to self-populate. It is hoped that this work will be complete in late 2017.
- 17/6.16 ACFO Mahoney advised there are a range of mechanisms for learning about risks and how to mitigate them which include debriefs and operational audits – every incident is debriefed and this will sometimes include other agencies (Police, environmental health, etc). Potential breaches or near misses in operational health and safety incidents are monitored and investigated. The incident summary shows no significant trends.
- 17/6.17 Members would like some information about Cadets of which there are a number in the Wiltshire area. They also highlighted concerns about the hut which has a damaged door and asked that this be repaired. ACFO Stead will take this up with the Estates department and report back.
- 17/6.18 Having scrutinised the performance members approved the quarter 3 performance.
- 17/6.19 **RESOLVED: Members approved the quarter 3 performance.**
- 17/6.20 **ACTION: ACFO Mahoney to arrange a verbal update about how crews locate and identify moored up vessels along the Kennet and Avon Canal**
- 17/6.21 **ACTION: ACFO Stead to arrange for the rural safety team to attend the meeting planned for 24 May 2017 to provide supporting information.**
- 17/6.22 **ACTION: ACFO Stead to follow up on the door to the hut, to provide security and good PR**

17/7 Briefing from Area Manager

17/7.1 ACFO Mahoney provided the background on a number of incidents, including road traffic collisions (RTCs) and extrication of a cow! There had been a number of fires one of which was for a thatch roof which had a significant impact on equipment at the scene.

17/7.2 The Service is running some new initiatives: the Blood Transfusion Service IS to use Salisbury fire station; working with the military to support veterans with mental ill-health; Service premises to support food banks in the Devizes area; and with a range of other agencies. Working with All these things bring the ability to connect with vulnerable people.

17/8 Issues raised by Members

17/8.1 Members asked for an update on the control room and the media interest of recent weeks. ACFO Mahoney confirmed that the issues raised by the press and media are old issues, which have been managed and dealt with through DWFRAs and other meetings. The Policy & Resources committee had in fact been scrutinising progress against action plans to address the issues raised in this media report for some time and had recently passed this back to officers to continue the work on the basis that matters were being effectively dealt with. A freedom of information (FOI) request was submitted to DWFRS, Hampshire and Devon and Somerset services. Our response was as seen by Members following the event. The primary focus of the press and media was on the Capita system used to mobilise appliances. The ACFO assured Members that no emergency calls had been missed due to failure of the equipment.

17/9 Date of Next Meeting

17/9.1 The Chairman confirmed with Members the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as **30 May 2017** at the Training and Development Centre, Devizes

Signed: _____