



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Item 18/5

**DRAFT Minutes of the  
Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee  
held at 10:00 hours on Thursday 16 November 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 Colin Lovell (Chairman); Cllr Steve Allsopp; Cllr Abdul Amin; Cllr Nick Martin; Cllr Gary Perkins

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

Observing: SM Gareth Evans (Fires Safety North); GM Seth Why, Head of Prevention & Protection.

**17/20 Welcome**

17/20.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees including observers.

**17/21 Apologies**

17/21.1 There were no apologies.

**17/22 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business**

17/22.1 The Chairman asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**17/23 Public Questions**

17/23.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions were received.

**17/24 Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29 August 2017**

17/24.1 The Chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

17/24.2 **RESOLVED: Minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record with no amendments.**

**17/25 Actions progress**

17/25.1 There are no outstanding actions.

**17/26 Performance monitoring for the preceding quarter**

17/26.1 AM Baker took Members through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter's Performance Report for Bournemouth & Poole Local Performance & Scrutiny (Appendix A) adding

17/26.2 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.

17/26.3 Introduced by commenting on the good partnership working in the borough and introduced SM Gareth Evans.

**Priority 1**

17/26.4 Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) has been relaunched in Swindon, with a volunteer coordinator for the area. There are a number of other partnerships still running, along with a safe and well advisor, who is currently working with our partners in CGL (drug and alcohol services) their main focus being on service users with children under 5 in the household. This is one of our high risk groups and therefore see this as a priority piece of work. OneSwindon has brought in a consultant to support smarter partnership working.

17/26.5 The Service has collaborated with translators, safe and well advisors and the Harbour project manager. Recruitment has taken place and nearly 1200 applicants which is less than expected. About 400/450 applicants are going through the fitness testing.

- 17/26.6 Education programmes are ongoing, GM Seth Why joined the meeting as Head of Prevention. Work was also ongoing with young people and young fire-starters. Salamander courses have taken place, with another cohort of cadets with a learning disability (LD) passing out. There have also been a number of fire safety education sessions as follows: 11 preschool children; 58 KS2 children; and 148 KS3 children. DC Lee Brathwaite (Swindon) has been working with the Arson Reduction Coordinator about anti-social behaviour (ASB) and deliberate fire starting.
- 17/26.7 Through Safe Drive, Stay Alive (SDSA) 2567 young people have been engaged with the events taking place primarily in school settings. Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel have attended, including those outside the borough. The Road Safety budget has been cut and will affect the amount of work the Service can undertake in partnership with Swindon Borough Council. A drug testing campaign has taken place and several roadshows have supported them.
- 17/26.8 225 S&W visits took place and referrals to other agencies continued to take place alongside targeting vulnerable people, using pinpoint which supports accessing the most vulnerable in the area. A safety officer is located at Swindon fire station. Migration funding, following the Manchester Road fire, is in excess of £278k which has funded, amongst other things, two environmental health officers and community engagement officers to work in the area. These extra posts will work with S&W advisors.
- Priority 2**
- 17/26.9 Safeguarding referrals are ongoing, with the numbers increasing as we reach more and more vulnerable people. The Service is primarily involved in adult safeguarding. The Service endeavours to ensure the right agencies are involved, safeguarding referrals take place 24/7. The Service made 18 referrals in the quarter.
- 17/26.10 Peer Safeguarding Audit took place, lead by the Service safeguarding lead, and was completed in October. It enabled local officers to understand what impact this had and to understand the importance of proper safeguarding policies & procedures.
- 17/26.11 A high level of partnership engagement has taken place under the Fire safety umbrella which is leading to improvements in housing. As a result of this another property was being fitted with sprinkler (suppression) system at cost to Swindon Borough Council (SBC).
- 17/26.12 Following the Grenfell fire tragedy in June, a great deal of work has already taken place and more work is planned. SBC are looking to upgrade fire safety measures within high rise buildings including hard wired smoke detectors.
- 17/26.13 SM Evans was invited to speak about the work being carried out in academies which had been completed, however one has a sprinkler system fitted and the other has not. The Service would like to see all new

schools/academies and similar structures fitted with sprinkler systems. Members discussed the sprinkler system and planning regulations related to schools and similar buildings.

17/26.14 An operational exercise took place at David Murray John with crews from Swindon, Stratton and Westlea, in partnership with Brunel Security. High rise building refresher training has taken place specifically for those who may respond to SBC high rise fire and rescue situations during busy periods. The Service is also working closely with Swindon and Wiltshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) testing plans and undertaking risk awareness testing. A LRF exercise took place in Devizes in July.

**Priority 3**

17/26.15 Response times are currently at 87.5% for first attendance at sleeping risk properties and 80% for second appliance attendance (sleeping risk includes care homes, hotels, prisons etc). For other buildings the first appliance to arrive within target response times is 82% of occasions and the second appliance arrives within target 90% of the time. Road Traffic Collision (RTC) response target of 15 minutes was achieved on 95% of occasions. Some delays were caused by responders travelling from outside the 10 minute isochrone (designated radius for travel).

17/26.16 AM Baker was working to maintain a higher level of on call availability. Work was on-going across the Service area to improve the on-call service in localities.

17/26.17 Competence is good because Swindon is primarily wholtime (WT) crewed, however on-call is also at a good level (96% and 89.4% respectively).

17/26.18 Trend lines and page numbers have been added to the full performance report and bar charts will be used on many graphs going forward.

17/26.19 **RESOLVED: Having scrutinised the performance report, Members approved it.**

**17/27 Briefing from the Area Manager**

17/27.1 Looking to the future, the risks associated to calls are mitigated by members of the public when they undertake to close doors when they retire for the night or go out. During the last three months' deliberate fire setting has reduced due to the work undertaken by educators. There will be some focussed work in the locations of concern which will help reduce deliberate fire setting. Police have been working to reduce incidents of ASB in the borough. Accidental dwelling fires between July and September reduced to 27 from 42 in Quarter 1 (April to June). Christmas fire safety information would be circulated by SBC in the e-newsletter

17/27.2 A major hotel fire took place which Swindon fire station had to manage and firefighters were mindful of the previous major incident at the recycling plant.

17/27.3 Many watches have been audited for operational competencies by the DC and learn from outcomes related to equipment, appliances and personnel which is fed back to the training. This work is ongoing into the early part of 2018.

17/27.4 Member Buddy System was promoted. Westlea Fire Station has an Open Day on 2 December and Members are invited.

**17/28 Issues raised by Members (agreed with chairman)**

17/28.1 There were no matters raised.

**17/29 Date of Next Meeting**

17/29.1 The Chairman confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 10am on 27 February 2018 at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green, Westlea, SN5 7DB

Meeting ended at 11.20

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_