



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the  
Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee  
held at 10:00 hours on Tuesday 27 February 2018  
at Westlea Fire Station, Westlea**

Members present: Cllr Colin Lovell (Chairman); Cllr Abdul Amin; Cllr Steve Allsopp  
Cllr Nick Martin

Officer attendance: Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer,  
James Mahoney; Area Manager, Byron Standen; Head of Strategic Planning and  
Knowledge Management, Mr Robert Ford; Performance & Evaluation Manager, Mrs  
Jane Barnes; Democratic Services Officer, Mrs Marianne Taylor; Station Manager,  
Lee Brathwaite.

**18/1 Welcome**

18/1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

**18/2 Apologies**

18/2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Garry Perkins; Group Manager  
(Swindon), Glyn Moody

**18/3 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any  
Other Business**

18/3.1 The Chairman asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests  
under the localism act. There were no disclosures.

**18/4 Public Questions**

18/4.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

**18/5 Minutes of the Swindon LPS meeting on 16 November 2017**

18/5.1 The Chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

18/5.2 **RESOLVED: Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record, with no amendments.**

**18/6 Action Progress**

18/6.1 There were no outstanding actions to report.

18/6.2 **RESOLVED: Members agreed that until such time as there were actions to report on, Action Progress can be removed from the standing agenda item for this committee.**

18/6.3 **ACTION: Democratic Services to remove Action Progress from standing items on the Swindon agenda.**

**18/7 Performance monitoring and briefing**

18/7.1 AM Standen took Members through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter's Performance Report for Swindon Local Performance & Scrutiny committee. (Appendix A) covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2017.

18/7.2 The three priorities that AM Standen has responsibility for within 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.

18/7.3 AM Byron Standen took Members through the presentation on activities and events covering the last quarter by priority.

**Priority 1**

18/7.4 Members discussed a number of subjects within the report and were interested to learn that work had been undertaken to support Domestic Abuse Week, that safe and well visits to vulnerable people are being targeted with referrals coming in from a range of sources.

- 18/7.5 AM Standen advised Members that the Community Engagement Strategy was working well with two advisors being appointed by and working for Swindon Borough Council. alongside our Safe and Well advisors.
- Cllr Nick Martin arrived
- 18/7.6 AM Standen provided an update on Broadgreen Project and use of successful bid monies received. The main areas on which to focus included English language, community cohesion and the migrant rough sleeping initiative.
- 18/7.7 AM Standen advised that fire safety education and engagement has reached 1257 children in Key Stage (KS) one and two. Good positive feedback had been received that indicates these were valued school visits. AM Standen further advised that by the end of Q4 it is anticipated that 36 out of 56 school visits will have taken place, with the remaining 20 being scheduled for Q1 2018/19. AM Standen was pleased to report that Fire Cadets had raised funds to pay for a specialist adapted bike.
- 18/7.8 A Salamander event commenced in November 2017 and ten of the twelve young people completed the course with some good outcomes in first aid, food safety and employability skills units.
- 18/7.9 AM Standen reported that all schools will have participated in safe drive stay alive (SDSA) by the end of March 2018. He added that 2614 students attended from a variety of educational establishments. There will be two roadshows for NetworkRail staff who commute through the local area. Members discussed road safety education, events and road traffic incident reduction activities, and working with partner organisations.
- 18/7.10 AM Standen advised that 8-900 home visits are expected to have been undertaken by end of year, plus a number of follow-on requests for extra visits. AM Standen further advised there was an advisor at Great Western Hospital reception which resulted in a further 13 referrals. He added that the visits take place to vulnerable people with criteria under the broad headings of alcohol, age, disability and learning difficulties.
- Priority 2**
- 18/7.11 AM Standen advised that the Service supported ambulance personnel to access homes for those with an immediate medical priority where they have been unable to gain access themselves. AM Standen added that access in this way helps to identify unusual life styles and paraphernalia that may indicate inappropriate activities taking place. He further added that supporting access to homes with hoarding concerns, where there is a vulnerable person and a potential fire risk, was an important part of the Service's prevention activities.

- 18/7.12 AM Standen advised that the Service had access to information that supports homelessness activities including access to landlord deposit schemes. Adding that this improved the Service's ability to target sleeping risks and high-rise properties.
- 18/7.13 A number of visits have taken place to hospitals and other properties to provide advice and guidance on good practice for keeping safe in the event of a fire. The Service's attendance at Swindon Borough Council's empty homes and sheltered housing schemes supported this role as does attending retail parks where support was provided on the benefit of safety checks and the control of fire alarms.
- 18/7.14 AM Standen advised that a number of Local Resilience Forum (LRF) exercises had taken place alongside conferences, and, importantly, Swindon town centre evacuation strategy has been tested.
- Priority 3**
- 18/7.15 AM Standen advised that wholtime appliances were available 100% of the time and On-call appliances 64.5% pf the time. The Service had also recruited some high quality On-call Swindon area staff through the recent recruitment drive. AM Standen added that the Service is targeting promotion within the Service to encourage driver skills and on-site command skills to be taken up.
- 18/7.16 AM Standen advised Members that a Service wide initiative was taking place to help residents understand issues related to parking and blocking fire appliances access called "Are We Getting Through".
- 18/7.17 Response standards remain fairly stable and station managers evaluate response times below target to evaluate for trends. Delays are investigated and acted upon where possible and were generally due to being out on another call, or training at another fire station.
- 18/7.18 Competencies were running at 86% On-call across Swindon, who had only a few hours for training which has to be fitted into their day-to-day work elsewhere. ACFO Mahoney has explained that new officers had been recruited to support On-call training and maximise time. Watch managers carry out annual audits to maintain operational readiness.
- 18/7.19 AM Standen advised members that the Service has invested in two new aerial appliances, one of which would be based in Swindon following training for operational personnel. The appliances would be ready for use later this year.
- 18/7.20 Operational crews from across the region attended a significant thatch fire at Hodson. This involved a high call on water carriers and an aerial ladder platform (ALP) appliance from across the service. There was a debrief about the fire, which included Swindon Borough Council staff and Control centre staff. It was acknowledged that it had been a significant achievement to save the adjoining properties through a fire break. This

was helped by the thatch roof training had been carried out over the previous 18-months. Members were interested to learn that information about preventing thatch roof fires was promoted in September each year.

18/7.21 Accidental dwelling fires had reduced from 28 to 25 in this quarter, which covered the Christmas period: also showing a decrease was the number of deliberate fires set – a multi-agency approach was used to investigate and prevent further fire setting. A robust fire education programme was put in place to support community awareness.

**Briefing**

18/7.22 AM Standen advised that a picture depicting the benefit of closing doors to prevent fires spreading was used to help landlords and tenants understand the risk of not doing so.

18/7.23 ESSC Brunel Centre was the centre of attention during winds in November and fire fighters made safe some equipment at risk of falling onto the pathway below.

18/7.24 A Christmas open day was held at Westlea Fire Station, raising over £4000 for the Firefighters Charity. Prevent training was carried out.

18/7.25 **RESOLVED: Members approved the performance for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**18/8 Issues raised by Members (agreed with chairman)**

18/8.1 No issues were raised, however the Chairman advised that he intends to step down from holding office at the next local elections due in May 2018.

**18/9 Date of Next Meeting**

18/9.1 The Chairman confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 17 May 2018 10am at Westlea Fire Station.

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