



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at 10:00 hours on 13 February 2020 at the Westlea Community Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green, Westlea SN5 7DB**

Members present: Cllr Garry Perkins (Chair); Cllr Abdul Amin; Cllr Brian Mattock.

Officer attendance: Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney; Area Manager (AM), Ian Jeary; Group Manager (GM), Glyn Moody; Station Manager (SM), Wayne Presley; Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse; Strategic Planning Coordinator, Clare Hawker.

**20/01 Welcome**

20/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

**20/02 Apologies**

20/02.1 No apologies were received.

**20/03 Code of conduct, declarations of interest and notifications of any other business**

20/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**20/04 Public questions**

20/04.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

**20/05 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon LPS meeting on 7 November 2019**

20/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

20/05.2 ACFO Mahoney informed Members and Officers that this meeting would be the last one that GM Moody would attend as was retiring in May, after 30 years in the fire and rescue service. Members thanked him for his hard work, commitment and service over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

20/05.3 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

**20/06 Action Progress**

20/06.1 Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse advised Members that the report contained one action from a previous meeting which had been completed.

20/06.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments and approved the removal of completed action.**

**20/07 Performance monitoring and briefing**

20/07.1 GM Moody took Members through the Swindon Local Performance & Scrutiny report for quarter 3, which is structured under the following three priorities:

**Priority 1 Help you to make safer and healthier choices**  
**Priority 2 Protect you and the environment from harm**  
**Priority 3 Be there when you need us.**

20/07.2 **Priority 1**

20/07.3 GM Moody reported that 552 Safe and Well visits had been carried out in quarter 3, a 52% increase on the same period for the previous year. He explained that there was a good relationship with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) which had resulted in better quality referrals for visits. 87% of visits had been carried out on homes of high to very high-risk.

20/07.4 GM Moody reported that the number of accidental dwelling fires had remained consistent over the last 12 to 15 months. He explained that the Service had delivered targeted media messages over the Christmas period and this would have been a factor in a reduction of the usual spike in fires, with 50% fewer accidental dwelling fires in December compared to last year.

- 20/07.5 In response to a Member's question, GM Moody confirmed that examples of the causes of accidental dwelling fires were cooking and faulty electrical equipment.
- 20/07.6 GM Moody explained that station managers attend a community safety tasking group on a monthly basis, which comprises partners such as Swindon Borough Council Housing, Police, Probation Service, and the Youth Offending Team. These meetings are arranged to discuss anti-social behaviour across the borough enabling the Service to link in with housing issues and concerns, including deliberate fire-setting.
- 20/07.7 GM Moody reported a significant drop in the number of deliberate fires (27) when compared against the same period last year (45). He pointed out that, to an extent, the numbers of these fires were affected by weather. Members discussed the types of these fires and GM Moody explained the difference between primary and secondary fires. In answer to a Member's question, an explanation was given that prolific offending does occur but is not a huge problem in the group.
- 20/07.8 GM Moody went on to explain the Salamander courses that had been funded by SBC providing useful life skills with certificates and qualifications on completion.
- 20/07.9 Safe Drive Stay Alive Roadshows had been delivered to 17 schools in the quarter, with a total of 2,563 attendees. GM Moody reported that the team was now looking at running roadshows for the Ministry of Defence.
- 20/07.10 **Priority 2**
- 20/07.11 GM Moody was pleased to report that the Safeguarding process is now becoming embedded and that people were getting used to using it. He explained a case where a crew had attended a 'request to gain entry' and found some significant safeguarding issues. The crew had worked in partnership with (multi-agency) SBC, Environmental Health and NHS staff to achieve a very positive outcome for the occupants.
- 20/07.12 GM Moody explained that automatic fire alarms (AFA) made up a significant number of calls and that a new AFA reduction process would start to reduce this number in the future. In answer to a Member's question, GM Moody confirmed that there was no trend in terms of manufacturers of alarms. He went on to explain the support and education provided where repeat false alarms occur and that it was a national issue.
- 20/07.13 In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Jim Mahoney explained the statutory areas that Building Regulation consultations relate to and explained that this may change with the forthcoming Building Safety and Fire Safety Bills.

20/07.14 GM Moody reported that the Service had taken part in a number of multi-agency exercises which included arrangements for exiting the European Union and flooding. In addition, he explained the Service continues to exercise with bordering fire and rescue services to strengthen cross-border and multi-agency relations and working arrangements. This had included an exercise at RAF Fairford in October.

20/07.15 **Priority 3**

20/07.16 GM Moody reported that 92% of incidents met the response standard for sleeping risk properties within the travel-time isochrone. He explained that those incidents not meeting the standard were investigated and normally due to process issues, such as crews not booking in on arrival. GM Moody explained that there had been a good improvement in on-call availability, but that he was looking at gaps in cover on stations. He said that the on-call support officers were making a difference and that Have a Go Days were continuing to encourage people to see what the job is about.

20/07.17 Officers explained how an incident is responded to when it is on or near a border and confirmed that the public get the fastest available response. ACFO Mahoney went on to describe the cross-charging arrangements available between fire and rescue services.

20/07.18 GM Moody then highlighted some of the events that the local crews had supported during the quarter, including Swindon Fire Cadets taking part in Big Sleepout, the Christmas Santa collection and Stratton Fire Station White Watch's annual visit to Great Western Hospital.

20/07.19 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved the performance for quarter 3**

**20/08 Technical Rescue Review (verbal update)**

20/08.1 ACFO Mahoney gave Members an update on the Technical Rescue Review. He explained that this was part of the wider work that had been in progress since combination to align resources and capabilities across the Service. He reported that the objective of the review was to ensure that the right resources were in the correct places according to risk. He said that the review had:

- looked at the nature and location of incidents and where the risks are
- the provision in neighbouring services and practicalities, such as training
- engaged with staff at all fire stations that may be affected by the review

He stressed that no decisions had yet been made and added that the Strategic Leadership Team would receive a feasibility report in due course.

**20/09 Issues raised by Members (agreed with Chair)**

20/09.1 No issues were raised.

**20/10 Date of next meeting**

20/10.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 21 May 2020 from 10.00am at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green, Westlea, SN5 7DB.

The meeting closed at 11.40

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