



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee
held on 3 June 2021 at 10:00am at Swindon Fire Station, Drove Road, Swindon.**

Members present:

Cllr Garry Perkins (Chair)
Cllr Bob Jones (substitute)
Cllr Kevin Small

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Greg Izon
Democratic Services, Gemma Kelly

21/09 Welcome

21/09.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members.

21/10 Apologies

21/10.1 No apologies were received.

21/11 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

21/11.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**21/12 Review and approve the minutes from the meeting on
23 February 2021**

21/12.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/12.2 **RESOLVED: the minutes were confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

21/13 Action progress report

- 21/13.1 Gemma Kelly took members through the Action Progress report. There is one outstanding action.
- 21/13.2 Action 313 in relation to the high rise demonstration is being rescheduled for 17 June, this will be confirmed in due course by GM Izon.
- 21/13.3 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**

21/14 Performance monitoring and briefing

- 21/14.1 Group Manager (GM) Izon talked through the performance presentation for quarter 4 as per the link below. Discussions arising are noted as follows:
[Swindon LPS Performance Presentation Q4](#)
- 21/14.2 Cllr Jones noted that on-call availability in Wiltshire had increased and queried why this has been the opposite in Swindon. GM Izon confirmed this was due to staff sickness and shielding.
- 21/14.3 Cllr Holland asked for some context to the on-call availability data. GM Izon explained how some on-call appliances may be unavailable, meaning another fire appliance in the group is utilised instead, it is this which causes a slight delay. GM Izon provided reassurance that the current position is not a concerning issue as the gap caused by sickness is now rectified.
- 21/14.4 Cllr Jones queried the roll out of the fire safety education programme and would like to see more information about this in future meetings.
- 21/14.5 In relation to fire setters, Cllr Perkins recounted an issue in another service area where youths are setting fires linked to social media trend. It was confirmed that this 'trend' had not been seen in Swindon so far. AM Why noted a resource available to a story which the service have narrated in relation to fire setting and is used by services nationally. AM Why will share this resource with members for onward sharing and use. GM Izon assured members that the service work closely with partner agencies to identify emerging threats and trends.
- 21/14.6 Cllr Holland queried the stereotypical demographic of fire setters. GM Izon clarified that anecdotally this does tend to be young males and typically there are links to criminality as usually fire setting is only one strand of the offending. GM Izon will look to identify this data through the fire setters programme. ACFO Cole clarified that the fire setters programme is a highly impactful course and works effectively to reduce reoffending.
- 21/14.7 Cllr Holland asked if Safe and Well referrals could come from Councillors during visits to residential premises and if literature could be shared. GM Izon agreed that Councillors could share referrals and the information on how to do this would be shared.

- 21/14.8 Cllr Jones asked for a progress report on the Safe and Well referral work with utility providers. GM Izon confirmed this is still ongoing with the priority matters initially.
- 21/14.9 Cllr Small queried if lunch clubs will also be considered for Safe and Well inputs. GM Izon confirmed that lunch clubs would be engaged as this progresses.
- 21/14.10 Cllr Perkins queried Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's) data and how many of these are false / faulty alarms. AM Why confirmed that the review group scrutinise the number of alarms alongside the number of actual fires. The reductions seen as a result of this have been given a value of £70k. Cllr Jones asked how many figures are repeats, AM Why confirmed that where three AFAs are received from one subject in a quarter, this will trigger a Safe and Well referral.
- 21/14.11 Cllr Jones mentioned the reduced capacity on courses accounting for the slightly lower operational competence rate. Cllr Small raised a concern in relation to resilience of the service where sickness and absenteeism may be causing a reduction in compliance data. AM Cole confirmed the figure in on-call competence is a total of 7 firefighters and therefore, one person can skew the figures significantly. AM Cole further addressed that training is being dealt with in priority order to maintain availability levels, however the retaining of on-call service is an issue and is being addressed by the service. AM Cole is not concerned by these figures at this time.
- 21/14.12 Cllr Perkins asked who the lead service is for the ongoing events and protests being experienced in Swindon. GM Izon confirmed that Police will lead on these incidents however the service will continue to liaise and coordinate fully with all partners.
- 21/14.13 Cllr Holland discussed the categorisation of fires in the demand summary and queried how the deliberate fires can be categorised in terms of residential properties. GM Izon confirmed this figure can be broken down and tends not to be residential in the majority.
- 21/14.14 **ACTION: AM Why to share the fire setting awareness video with members for onward sharing and use.**
- 21/14.15 **ACTION: GM Izon will make available the data regarding fire setters demographics and links to criminality through the fire setters programme.**
- 21/14.16 **ACTION: GM Izon to share 'Safe and Well' information and available literature with Members to enable Councillors to make referrals where required.**

21/15 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair) / AOB

21/15.1 Cllr Holland notified that he will be on holiday from 25 August to 1 September, therefore the next meeting will need to be rescheduled.

21/15.2 **ACTION: Democratic Services to reschedule the next meeting noting Cllr Holland's availability.**

21/16 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee is to be rescheduled and the date confirmed in due course.

Meeting ended at 11.45