



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on
26 May 2022, 10.00am at the Conference Room at the Poundbury offices,
Peeverell Avenue West, Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3SU.**

Members present:

Cllr Pete Barrow (Chair)

Cllr Richard Biggs

Cllr Rebecca Knox

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole

Area Manager (AM), Darren Langdown

Area Manager (AM), Marc House

Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack

Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

Water and Foam Officer, Ian Crabb (open seat)

22/10 Welcome

22/10.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

22/11 Apologies

22/11.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Byron Quayle.

22/12 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

22/12.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

22/13 Public questions

22/13.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

- 22/13.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no public questions.**
- 22/14 Review and approve minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) Committee meeting held on 24 February 2022**
- 22/14.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 22/14.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 22/15 Action progress report**
- 22/15.1 Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack and the Democratic Services Officer provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:
- 22/15.2 Action 336 that a report be brought to a future meeting on improving ways to communicate with the larger towns in Dorset. Cllr Rebecca Knox informed that meeting that contact had been made with the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils who had agreed to act as a single point of contact to disseminate the Service update video and the Service performance review presentations, to include a covering email from the Chief Fire Officer. This action was therefore complete.
- 22/15.3 Discussion also took place on officer attendance at constituent councils with Local Area Board meetings. Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole and Area Manager (AM), Darren Langdown stated that they would review Station Manager attendance to link with station risk reviews so that value could be added by attendance. The Chair suggested that the review include on-call stations, perhaps on an annual basis, to understand the local community and to look at prevention work. This matter would be given further consideration by ACFO Cole in consultation with Cllr Knox and the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee Chairs.
- 22/15.4 **ACTION: That ACFO Cole in consultation with Cllr Knox and the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee Chairs, review officer attendance at constituent councils with Local Area Board meetings.**
- 22/15.5 Action 339 to confirm with Dorset Council's Education Team that the information exchange over fire-setters was established. Area Manager (AM), Marc House was present at the meeting and reported that information exchange links were established with education, the Police and local schools. The methods of the confidential exchange of information were explained to the Committee. The Service was the National fire Chiefs Council's (NFCC) lead for the south west region for firesetter guidance. This action was therefore complete.

- 22/15.6 Action 341 that AM Marc House - prevention and protection, be invited to present to the next meeting of the LPS the evaluations that were made in respect of firesetters. AM House was present at the meeting and explained the evaluation of firesetting. The number of deliberate fires was now declining, down from 993 to 776 last year due to work that had been undertaken with other agencies, including working with schools and the police to reduce the issue at source. There were no open cases and two had been closed in the last few days.
- 22/15.7 In terms of value for money, every £1 invested gave a return of £4.75. Children were addressed at an early age before firesetting became real with shed, fence and car fires. Statistics were reported on an annual and monthly basis.
- 22/15.8 The Chair enquired who benefitted from such action, and asked if it was the insurance companies or the Service? AM House replied that the Service saved £7,000 by not mobilising due to fire setting.
- 22/15.9 Cllr Knox asked about a campaign regarding disposable barbecues and their possible ban for sale to those under 16 years of age. ACFO Andy Cole explained why the Service had not joined that campaign but were undertaking prevention work. AM House added that the focus was on education at an early stage to reduce firesetting behaviours.
- 22/15.10 Cllr Richard Biggs asked if the costings included Canford Heath and Wareham Forest fire's environmental damage. AM House provide information on deliberate fires and how they were costed.
- 22/15.11 This action was therefore complete.
- 22/15.12 Action 343 – To liaise with the Dorset local alliance of children and adult services, with Amanda Davis, Head of Locality and Strategy, at Dorset Council being the contact for youth intervention. AM Langdown stated that this action was being progressed in liaison with AM Seth Why and an update would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 22/15.13 The Chair commented that Amanda Davis was undertaking positive work and it would be welcomed if the Service could join in with this. Cllr Knox added her agreement.
- 22/15.14 This item remained in progress.
- 22/15.15 Action 344 – That it be a standard item on the Performance reports to consider the isochrones that were out of time and did they result in an adverse impact. The officers reported that this item was complete and if there was anything of significance it would be brought before Members for consideration.
- 22/15.16 This action was therefore complete
- 22/15.17 **RESOLVED: Members noted that actions 336, 339, 341 and 344 were complete and that action 343 remained in progress**

22/16 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 4

22/16.1 GM Pack presented to Members the performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 4, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee:

Priority 1 Help you to make safer and healthier choices

Priority 2 Protect you and the environment from harm, and

Priority 3 Be there when you need us.

A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).

22/16.2 Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices

22/16.3 GM Pack responded to the comments from the Chair regarding the number of fires due to vaping, compared with cigarettes, and explained that an additional consideration was the use of lithium batteries in electronic cigarettes, mobile phones and other electrical equipment which, when shocked, could lead to self-ignition

22/16.4 In respect of Members' questions relating to road safety campaigns in schools, AM House confirmed that returns were analysed, and engagement took place with schools. The Service provided online versions to deliver the campaign packages to enable schools to share them themselves. The campaign covered pedal and motorbikes for young people at the age of 16 and had been positively received. ACFO Cole added that the education aligned with the national curriculum and there was a bespoke package for different age groups. The programme also demonstrated value for money, for example the £1 spent produced a saving of £32. This work was very important, but it was not a statutory duty.

22/16.5 Cllr Biggs referred to working with insurance companies to provide sponsorship. AM House stated that insurance companies were engaged with, for example in promoting the black box telematics insurance.

22/16.6 Cllr Knox mentioned raising funds from mobile phone companies towards road safety. AM House stated that Road Safety UK did engage with this group, and he would take back to the Road Safety Panel the issues raised regarding funding. Cllr Knox stated that she would also raise the matter with the NFCC road safety body.

22/16.7 The Committee also noted that there was a campaign 'survive the drive' aimed at the military, which had now been widely adopted by the Ministry of Defence

22/16.8 Regarding firesetter work, Cllr Biggs enquired if there was a correlation between large fires seen on television with more local fires. GM Pack stated that the Service worked with partners to try to encourage positive behaviours in prevention. These were targeted interventions to get the balance correct and to try not to give ideas for firesetters. ACFO Cole added that the focus was looking at the consequences of firesetting through a one team approach.

22/16.9 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**

22/16.10 GM Pack reported that in quarter 4 the automatic fire alarm strategy at commercial premises had delivered cashable savings of £6,500 for on-call non-attendances in Dorset and four hours of whole-time attendance hours saved.

22/16.11 The Chair enquired about the sharing of information with other agencies. AM Darren Langdown explained the use of Resilience Direct and ACFO Cole stated that there were also weekly meetings with the police. AM Langdown also explained how shared data was kept up to date and the role undertaken by Service's risk team.

22/16.8 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**

22/16.9 The Committee explored the use of social media for the recruitment of on call firefighters and the issues associated with retention and operational delivery. The Chair asked the Group Manager to inform Members when they were aware of issues to be resolved.

22/16.10 The Chair enquired whether extra resources were required for supporting multi-agency incidents. GM Pack stated that additional radios had been supplied for National Incident Liaison Officers (NIOs) for supporting incident command to improve the sharing of information.

22/16.11 The Chair thanked GM Pack for his presentation.

22/16.12 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 4 2022**

22/17 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

23/17.1 The Committee briefly discussed charging for special services such as animal rescue and releasing people from lifts. ACFO Cole stated that there were mechanisms in place to charge and these were at the discretion of the incident commander. On balance the procedures in place were about right.

22/18 Date of Next meeting

22/18.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 25 August 2022 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.55

Signed: _____