



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at
10:00am on 1 June 2022 at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill Green,
Westlea, SN5 7DB**

Members present:

Cllr Russell Holland

Cllr Bob Jones (substitute)

Cllr Kevin Small

Officer attendance:

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

Area Manager (AM), Darren Langdown

Group Manager (GM), Dave Adamson

Group Manager (GM), Neil Tidball

Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

22/10 Election of Chair

22/10.1 The Democratic Services Officer opened the meeting. He asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Holland was nominated by Cllr Small and seconded by himself.

22/10.2 **RESOLVED: That Cllr Holland be elected Chair of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee.**

22/11 Welcome

22/11.1 Cllr Holland welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

22/12 Apologies

22/12.1 No apologies were received.

22/13 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

22/13.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

22/14 Public Questions

22/14.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

22/15 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 March 2022

22/15.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

22/15.2 The Committee expressed its thanks and gratitude to former Member Cllr Garry Perkins for his chairing of the Swindon LPS and contribution to the Authority.

22/15.3 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as an accurate record.**

22/16 Action Progress Report

22/16.1 Group Manager (GM) Dave Adamson provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:

22/16.2 Action 313 – to invite Members to a high-rise exercise being organised in Swindon at the end of March. The officers stated that Members would be invited to all large-scale exercises. This action was therefore complete.

22/16.3 Action 349 – GM Dave Adamson to circulate cultural guides to Members for information. The cultural guides had been circulated and this action was therefore complete.

22/16.4 **RESOLVED: Members noted that action number 313 and 349 were complete.**

22/17 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 4

22/17.1 GM Adamson presented to Members the performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 4, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee. A link to the presentation is [here](#).

22/17.2 **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.

- 22/17.3 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 22/17.4 In reply to the Chair's question regarding publicity around the success of tackling wheelie bin fires, GM Dave Adamson stated that although this had not been advertised it was an example of the success of partnership work. The Chair observed that consideration might be given to future publicity to celebrate success.
- 22/17.5 In reply to questions from Members, the officers provided details on the hotels that were being used to house asylum seekers.
- 22/17.6 In reply to a question from Cllr Small, Area Manager (AM) Darren Langdown explained that station risk profiles were reviewed every two years. The Service also had community maps and the two documents supported each other in providing the risk register and community profiles. This led to crews being confident of knowing their local areas and others nearby. It was requested that the risk profiles for the stations be shared with Members for them to be used in their councillor role to assist in raising the profile of the Service.
- 22/17.7 **ACTION: That the risk profiles for the stations be shared with Members for them to be used in their councillor role to assist in raising the profile of the Service.**
- 22/17.8 The Chair enquired about school visits and the use of social media by stations to advertise their education work. Members asked that the information be shared in order that they could link to their various social media feeds.
- 22/17.9 **ACTION: That social media groups used by stations to communicate their school visit education work be shared with Members in order that they could link to their various social media feeds to support the Service.**
- 22/17.10 At the request of Cllr Bob Jones, GM Adamson stated that he would provide information to Members on the percentage of schools that had declined the request for school visits by the Service to present, amongst other advice, lessons on road safety.
- 22/17.11 **ACTION: That information be provided to Members on the percentage of schools that had declined the request for school visits by the Service to present, amongst other advice, lessons on road safety.**
- 22/17.12 Members asked questions about the Service's relationship with partner organisations, for example the utility companies, and referrals for safe and well visits and also corporate responsibility funding from partner organisations. Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Andy Cole informed Members that a new partnerships officer for the north had been appointed, Perry Payne, to explore the benefits that could be obtained through partnership working. Members requested that the partnerships officer and Area Manager Marc House - Protection and Prevention, be invited to a future meeting to present an overview of their work to the Committee.

22/17.13 **ACTION: That Partnerships Officer, Perry Payne and Area Manager, Marc House (Protection and Prevention), be invited to a future meeting to present an overview of their work to the Committee.**

22/17.14 In reply to Members' questions, ACFO Cole explained how central control challenged calls in respect of automatic fire alarms, and the actions that were taken before a prohibition notice was served. The Chair observed that the evolving issue of fire safety inspections following the findings of the Grenfell Inquiry could be a matter for Members to raise with local Members of Parliament.

22/17.15 Council Small enquired if there had been an increase in workload following requests for licences for events in association with the Platinum Jubilee. ACFO Cole stated that this information would be submitted to the next meeting of the LPS.

22/17.16 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**

22/17.17 There were no Members questions arising.

22/17.18 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

22/17.19 GM Adamson and AM Langdown provided information in respect of the on-call availability at Stratton and Swindon stations in response to questions from Cllrs Jones and Small. It was also clarified that in this quarter on-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 71.2% of the time in the Swindon Group.

22/17.20 In reply to a question from Cllr Small, ACFO Cole provided information on the procedure for checking breathing apparatus.

22/17.21 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 4.**

22/18 Matters raised by Members (agreed with Chair)

22/18.1 Members discussed with the Officers ways in which they could help the Service, for example by providing constructive challenge, through the use of social media and canvassing for funding.

22/19 Date of Next Meeting

22/19.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as Wednesday 31 August 2022 at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 11:10am

Signed: _____