



## **DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November 2022, 10.00am at Poole Fire Station, Poole.**

#### Members present:

Cllr Toby Johnson (Chair)  
Cllr Steve Baron  
Cllr Malcolm Davies  
Cllr Millie Earl  
Cllr Paul Hilliard

#### Officer attendance:

Area Manager (AM), Darren Langdown  
Group Manager (GM), Stuart Gillion  
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

#### **22/30 Welcome**

22/30.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members.

#### **22/31 Apologies**

22/31.1 Apologies were received from Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole.

#### **22/32 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests**

22/32.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

#### **22/33 Public questions**

22/33.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

22/33.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted there were no public questions.**

**22/34      Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 24 August 2022**

22/34.1      The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

**22/34.2      RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

**22/35      Action progress report**

22/35.1      The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 24 August 2022 and there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

**22/35.2      RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.**

**22/36      Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 2**

22/36.1      Group Manager (GM) Stuart Gillion presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 2, 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](#).

22/36.2      **Priority 1** - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.

22/36.3      GM Gillion highlighted that wholetime appliance availability was 98% and within corporate targets; on-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 88% of the time. Cllr Paul Hilliard observed that response times were on a decreasing trend and enquired if this was traffic related. GM Gillion confirmed that response times had been impacted by an increase in traffic in conurbations and by an increase in roadworks in quarter 2, as local authorities spent their road maintenance budgets. Stations were briefed on roadworks within their area and response times remained within target.

22/36.4      GM Gillion commented that increased partnership working was assisting in prioritising actions, and that 896 Safe and Well visits had been made within the quarter in the local area with partnership referrals significantly increased compared with the previous year, including from organisations such as South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

- 22/36.5 The work of the Service regarding prevention and the cost-of-living crisis was explained. Information had been made available on the Authority's website about saving safely. In reply to a question from Cllr Hilliard, GM Gillion explained that the information covered topics such as the use of candles, safe use of electric heaters and the use and storage of electric batteries, as well as signposting to financial help. Cllr Malcolm Davies spoke of incidents that he was aware of where smoke alarms had fallen, and it was agreed that these incidents would be explored with the Officers outside of the meeting.
- 22/36.6 GM Gillion drew attention to the Education and Youth Intervention activity which, in quarter 2, included visiting schools with 1533 children and young people receiving educational input directly from the Service. Additionally, a number of children who received home schooling had received safety education from the Service at its stations. Road safety events had continued with partners, including a '#SeeYouOnTheRoad' programme aimed at young pedestrians.
- 22/36.7 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 22/36.8 GM Gillion outlined the partner work that was being undertaken to reduce anti-social behaviour. This included identifying key areas where anti-social behaviour took place and then visiting schools nearby to provide messaging. This work also involved intervention on fire setting through the Community Safety Partnership. Area Manager (AM) Darren Langdown added that from April 2023, station risk community profiles were being developed to be real time documents to allow stations to access timely information, to help focus resources and to analyse trends.
- 22/36.9 In reply to a question from Cllr Millie Earl, GM Gillion also reported that prosecution for firesetting was an option, but direct intervention, prevention and education were the main focus. GM Gillion added that in the prevention of heath fires, the Heath Volunteers had undertaken 77 patrols, which had provided 174 hours of assistance.
- 22/36.10 The building risk review had now inspected 354 premises, and this was followed by site specific inspections which led to an action plan and education. The information was placed on the risk register which assisted in partnership working and provided safer communities. Additionally, operational crews at wholtime stations undertook lower-level fire safety inspections known as Business Fire Safety checks on non-complex commercial premises, such as an office, shop or small industrial units and these had been undertaken at 231 premises across the Service. There had been no requirement to undertake enforcement within the last quarter.
- 22/36.11 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**
- 22/36.12 GM Gillion reported on appliance availability. The Service had recruited five new on-call staff within the quarter, which would assist with availability.

- 22/36.13 GM Gillion provided an outline of incidents attended during quarter 2, including the Studland fire. In reply to a question from Cllr Hilliard, GM Gillion stated that the availability of the Sandbanks Ferry was taken into consideration by the duty manager when assessing the most suitable assets to respond to an incident. Cllr Steve Baron suggested that prevention signage on the ferry, and also by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, for example take a picnic, not a BBQ, would be helpful messaging. The Officers stated that this would be given consideration.
- 22/36.14 The Chair thanked GM Gillion for his presentation and acknowledged that it had been a particularly demanding quarter.
- 22/36.15 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2 2022**
- 22/37 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**
- 22/37.1 Members briefly discussed the provision of the new anti-terrorism barriers on Poole Quay, which GM Gillion confirmed were accessible for the Service's largest vehicles. It was also explained that the current trend to purchase air fryers had raised no particular problem for the Service, but national learning would be monitored to ascertain if problems did arise from these small electrical appliances.
- 22/38 Date of Next meeting**
- 22/38.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 22 February 2023 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.00am

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