



DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 November 2023, 10.00am at the Conference Room at the Poundbury offices, Peverell Avenue West, Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3SU.

Members present:

Cllr Pete Barrow (Chair)
Cllr Richard Biggs
Cllr Rebecca Knox

Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) - Director of Community Safety, Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Darren Langdown
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

23/10 Election of Chair

2310.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole opened the meeting. He asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Pete Barrow was nominated by Cllr Rebecca Knox and seconded by Cllr Richard Biggs. Cllr Barrow was duly elected as Chair.

23/10.2 RESOLVED: That Cllr Pete Barrow be elected Chair of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee.

23/11 Welcome

23/11.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

23/12 Apologies

23/12.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Byron Quayle.

23/13 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

23/13.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

23/14 Public questions

23/14.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

23/14.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no public questions.**

23/15 Review and approve minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) Committee meeting held on 23 February 2023

23/15.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

23/15.2 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

23/16 Action progress report

23/16.1 Area Manager (AM) Langdown provided an update to the Committee on the following action:

23/16.2 Action 364 that a presentation be made to the November LPS meeting on the new arrangements for Watch Managers as outlined - (i.e., wholetime Watch Managers had become more empowered to undertake a wide range of duties to offer more to communities in terms of prevention).

23/16.3 AM Langdown presented to Members a new internally developed operational management dashboard that was available to Watch Managers. The dashboard was updated daily and was based on information derived from BOSS (Browser of Operational System Status), the incident management system to mobilise. The management dashboard had been built in collaboration with firefighter crews to reflect operational circumstances at a local level, based on each individual station call outs, although this could be extended. The dashboard provided information that could be analysed further, for example on fire incidents attended. The information provided could be remotely accessed by Watch Managers and in reply to Members' questions the officers explained that the initiative was still under development in order that it could provide information for strategic review, with the possibility of a Member dashboard to follow. The system could link to other internal systems to provide a joined-up approach and to help crews to understand why they were undertaking tasks and to provide transparency. Also available to Watch Managers on the system was information on training, station administration, watch activity, community work and availability.

23/16.4 **RESOLVED: Members agreed that action 364 was complete and noted there were no actions outstanding.**

23/17 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 2

23/17.1 AM Langdown 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](#).

23/17.2 Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.

23/17.3 By way of introduction, AM Langdown provided detail on the restructuring of the operational Service into three groups, Red, White and Blue. Group Manager (GM) Stuart Gillion was the manager of an area including Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, which extended to the Salisbury, Amesbury and Ludgershall area. ACFO Cole added that an objective of the restructuring was in response to the Independent Review to increase the visibility of managers and to improve efficiency and effectiveness. An Area Leadership Group had also been established and District Commanders would now be station focussed. The reporting lines of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees was unaltered.

23/17.4 AM Langdown highlighted the value of partnership working, including the Community Safety Partnership, the Road Safety Partnership and the Local Resilience Forums.

23/17.5 AM Langdown reported that the availability of on-call appliances was 74.66% and 100% for wholtime. There were a number of initiatives to improve on-call availability. These included a review of on-call staff current contract availability; succession planning to maintain availability and support recruitment; targeted recruitment campaigns and the creation of development hubs to support firefighters through development stages and support appliance availability. Within the second quarter there had been six new recruits within the Dorset area.

23/17.6 The operational competence of staff was good and in line with corporate targets.

23/17.7 AM Langdown drew attention to the social media activity which was aligned to the National Fire Chiefs Council campaigns, for example regarding chimney safety, cooking, smoke alarm purchasing, home fire safety and the use of air fryers.

- 23/17.8 Details were provided on the number of education inputs in quarter 2. This was 1103, comprising 793 children in six school visits, 140 children in station visits and 69 ad-hoc engagements, for example children who were home educated. There was one firesetter referral in the quarter.
- 23/17.9 There were 395 safe and well visits carried out in quarter 2, which was a decrease of 31.4% on the same quarter in the previous year. Of these visits, 109 were undertaken by operational crews. There were also 456 partner referrals in the quarter, which was a 44% increase on the same quarter in the previous year.
- 23/17.10 The number of accidental dwelling fires in quarter 2 was 29, which was a 15% reduction compared with the same period in the previous year.
- 23/17.11 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 23/17.12 Wholetime operational crews had carried out 211 business fire safety checks in the quarter relating to risk based low level fire safety activity.
- 23/17.13 AM Langdown reported the automatic fire alarms strategy at non-domestic premises across the Dorset Group area. For 127 automatic fire alarm calls in the quarter, cashable savings of £1686 had been delivered for on-call stations. The call challenge would be extended to 24 hours (from 8:00am to 6:00pm at present) to further reduce unwanted automatic fire alarm calls and provide savings.
- 23/17.14 AM Langdown highlighted that the Authority was a statutory consultee in Building Regulation consultations. In reply to a question from Cllr Richard Biggs, it was explained that the Service had a list of registered houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), which were inspected on a risk-based approach.
- 23/17.15 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**
- 23/17.16 The average response times were 11.05 minutes for sleeping risk first pump, 13.03 minutes for other buildings first pump and 12.59 minutes for road traffic collisions first pump. Occupational competencies all exceeded 90%.
- 23/17.17 There had been no potential fire deaths in the quarter 2 period, with two remaining with the potential for fire deaths that were awaiting a Coroner's verdict.
- 23/17.18 Members observed the summary of notable incidents attended in the quarter and the multi-agency exercises that the Service had participated in.
- 23/17.19 **Demand summary**
- 23/17.20 The Key Performance Indicators for the quarter were explained to the

Committee. Attendance was for 658 automatic fire alarms which result in a false alarm; 58 accidental dwelling fires; 144 deliberate fires (primary and secondary) and 640 special service incidents attended.

23/17.21 The Chair thanked AM Langdown for the presentation.

23/17.22 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2 2023

23/18 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

23/18.1 The officers drew to the attention of Members the increase in the number of attempted suicides attended by the Service. The Service was working with the Safeguarding Lead and with external charities to provide guidance to crews attending such incidents. In reply to a question from Cllr Rebecca Knox, the officers explained that the Demand Management Team was also analysing figures to identify if this was an increasing trend and that crews were being requested to better define incidents involving mental health issues to assist in this identification.

23/19 Date of Next meeting

23/19.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 22 February 2024 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.55

Signed: _____