



DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 February 2024, 10.00am at Room E3A at the Civic Centre, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth.

Members present:

Cllr Paul Hilliard (Chair)
Cllr Cameron Adams
Cllr Richard Herrett
Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr Clare Weight

Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) - Director of Community Safety, Andy Cole
Group Manager (GM) Operations, White Group, Antony Bholah
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

24/01 Welcome

24/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

24/02 Apologies

24/02.1 Apologies were received from Area Manager (AM) Darren Langdown.

24/03 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

24/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

24/04 Public questions

24/04.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

24/04.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted there were no public questions.**

- 24/05 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 21 November 2023**
- 24/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 24/05.2 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 24/06 Action progress report**
- 24/06.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 21 November 2023 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.
- 24/06.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.**
- 24/07 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 3**
- 24/07.1 Group Manager (GM) Operations White Group Antony Bholah presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 3, 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](#)
- 24/07.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 24/07.3 GM Bholah highlighted the value of partnership working, including the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Community Safety Partnership, the Road Safety Partnerships, the Dorset Safeguarding Adult Board (DSAB) and the Local Resilience Forums. Mention was made of the local risk reviews which developed station risk profiles to ensure that stations better understood the demands, risks and challenges at a local level.
- 24/07.4 In reply to a question from Cllr Lisa Northover, the officers explained how the Service was involved in planning for longer term risks, for example increases in the frequency and impact of flooding. The work of the National Risk Register and local planning through the Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) resulting in a local risk register were explained. The Service had representation at a senior level on both LRFs via a member of the Strategic Leadership Team. The national arrangements for response and mitigation were successful with resources held across fire services to provide national resilience, for example high-capacity water pumps, one of which was held by the Service.

- 24/07.5 GM Bholah reported that the availability of on-call appliances was 83.8%. Wholtime appliances was 97.5%, which was a good figure and within target. GM Bholah continued that there were a number of initiatives to improve on-call availability. These included a review of current on-call staff contracts of availability; succession planning to maintain availability and support recruitment and targeted recruitment campaigns. Within the third quarter there had been one new recruit within the BCP area.
- 24/07.6 The percentage of operational competence in date of staff was good and in line with corporate targets, with all exceeded 90%.
- 24/07.7 GM Bholah drew attention to the social media activity which was aligned to the National Fire Chiefs Council campaigns, for example regarding smoke alarm testing, electrical safety and Christmas. The key prevention safety messages were shared across various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.com. A total of 188,757 engagements were seen across all platforms. In reply to a question from Cllr Cameron Adams, it was confirmed that in-house staff undertook all social media promotion.
- 24/07.8 The Chair enquired about the publicity regarding lithium-ion battery fires. Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole replied that the majority of local enquires related to battery storage facilities and that there was national research on these subjects.
- 24/07.9 Details were provided on road safety events and also the number of education inputs in quarter 3 (with 3143 children reached); and that there were three firesetter referrals in the quarter and eight firesetter cases remained open. GM Bholah answered Cllr Adams' question and explained that firesetting was not a seasonal occurrence but was behavioural and referrals from schools and other agencies were important. An educational pack was available for use by schools.
- 24/07.10 There were 598 safe and well visits completed in quarter 3, which was a decrease from 748 in the same quarter in the previous year. Safe and well visits were now more targeted. A total of 45 Safeguarding referrals were raised by staff. In reply to a question from Cllr Northover, it was clarified that there was no charge by the Service for the provision of smoke alarms following a safe and well visit.
- 24/07.11 The number of accidental dwelling fires in quarter 3 was 48 compared with 67 in the same period in the same quarter in 2022.
- 24/07.12 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 24/07.13 Wholtime operational crews had carried out 275 business fire safety checks in the quarter across the Service relating to risk based low level fire safety activity.

24/07.14 GM Bholah reported that 206 automatic fire alarm were attended in non-domestic premises in the quarter. The automatic fire alarms strategy for non-attendance at non-domestic premises across the BCP Group area because of call challenge had delivered cashable savings of £6,905 for on-call non-attendance and returned 60 hours to wholetime crews. The call challenge procedure would be extended to 24 hours (from 8:00am to 6:00pm at present) to reduce further unwanted automatic fire alarm calls and provide savings. Calls to premises with a sleeping risk would be attended, which in the BCP area included considerable sheltered accommodation.

24/07.15 In reply to a question from Cllr Northover, the officers explained that repeated automatic fire alarm calls were visited by fire protection to understand the reasons and provide advice.

24/07.16 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**

24/07.17 The average response times were 07.18 minutes for sleeping risk first pump, 06.48 minutes for other buildings first pump and 07.55 minutes for road traffic collisions first pump.

24/07.18 There had been no potential fire deaths in the quarter 3 period, with two incidents remaining with the potential for fire deaths that were awaiting a Coroner's verdict.

24/07.19 Members discussed the summary of incidents presented at the meeting, including a kitchen fire at Sterte Court high rise build in in Poole and a bus crash which removed the roof of a double-decker bus in Bournemouth. The issues arising from treating fires in high rise buildings were explored.

24/07.20 **Demand Summary**

24/07.21 The Key Performance Indicators for the quarter were explained to the Committee. Attendance was for 1471 automatic fire alarms which resulted in a false alarm; 155 accidental dwelling fires; 296 deliberate fires (primary and secondary) and 896 special service incidents attended.

24/07.22 The Chair thanked GM Bholah for the presentation.

24/07.23 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3 2024**

24/08 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

24/08.1 Members discussed the demand for the Service on Bonfire night and the use of the Sandbanks ferry to attend incidents.

24/09 Date of Next meeting

24/09.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 28 August 2024 from 10.00am.

Initials _____

The meeting closed at 11.15

Signed: _____