



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at 10:00am
on 5 September 2024 at the Training and Development Centre, Hopton Industrial
Estate, London Road, Devizes**

Members present:

Cllr Kelvin Nash (Chair)
Cllr Daniel Cave
Cllr Paul Oatway
Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Paul Sample

Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Director of Community Safety, Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Stuart Gillion
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw
Corporate Support Administrator, Jackie Greene

24/15 Welcome

24/15.1 Cllr Kelvin Nash welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

24/16 Apologies

24/16.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Dalton.

24/17 Code of Conduct, Declaration of Interests

24/17.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

24/18 Public Questions

24/18.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

24/18.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no public questions.**

- 24/19 Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) meeting on 29 February 2024**
- 24/19.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
- 24/19.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 24/20 Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) meeting on 12 June 2024**
- 24/20.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 24/20.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 24/21 Action Progress report**
- 24/21.1 The Committee noted that in respect of action 366, regarding methods to identify those most at risk, at the meeting held on 30 November 2023 it was concluded that action 366 was on-going so that it could be monitored and that it would be covered in the performance monitoring and briefing quarterly report within the prevention section. At the meeting on 29 February 2024, it was agreed to keep this action open and in progress. The officers updated the meeting on the engagement that took place with foodbanks and referrals through partner agencies. There were approximately 8000 referrals in the year that were entered in a risk assessment matrix in order to target those most at risk. The methods to contact those at risk were outlined. Canal boat users were targeted during National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) promotion weeks, for example the boat safety and water awareness campaigns. The Committee noted that work on identifying those most at risk was ongoing and agreed to close the action.
- 24/21.2 In respect of action 367, at the meeting held on 29 February 2024, it had been agreed that the rollout of the Clear, Hold, Build Partnership to other areas be monitored. The officers reported that the Clear, Hold, Build was a national initiative with specific areas of the country being identified as most in need of this approach. The vast majority of the Service area, including Wiltshire, was not identified as in need of this initiative. The Service was taking the learning from this approach and adopting the good working practices Service wide in terms of a multi-agency response. The Committee noted that work on the Clear, Hold, Build Partnership was ongoing and agreed to close the action.
- 24/21.3 RESOLVED: Members agreed to close actions 366 and 367 and noted that there were no actions outstanding.**

24/22 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 1

24/22.1 Area Manager (AM) Stuart Gillion presented to Members the performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 1, 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](#)

24/22.2 Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.

24/22.3 AM Gillion highlighted the value of partnership working, including the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership, the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership, the Prevent Board, the Clear, Hold, Build Partnership, the Chippenham Community Hub and the Local Resilience Forums. Mention was made of the station risk profiles that were being used by operational crews to better support communities by providing an understanding of the demands, risks and challenges at a local level.

24/22.4 It was noted that on-call availability stood at 55.9%. Wholetime appliances was 97.7%, which was a good figure and within target.

24/22.5 The percentage of operational competence in date of staff was good and in line with corporate targets.

24/22.6 AM Gillion drew attention to the social media activity which was aligned to the NFCC campaigns, for example regarding smoking, escape routes and outdoor fire safety. The key prevention safety messages were shared across various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.com. A total of 159,269 engagements were seen across all platforms.

24/22.7 Details were provided on road safety events and also the number of education inputs in quarter 1. In the quarter, 2815 children and young people had received educational input, comprising 1962 via their main education provider, 464 via pre-schools, 274 children's groups and 115 ad-hoc engagements. It was noted that Road Safety events had reached 270 children. It was highlighted that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had altered its delivery and funding for 'Survive the Drive' for military personnel and no courses had been delivered this quarter. In reply to a question from Cllr Paul Oatway, the officers reported that this situation was being given consideration and it was expected that after review of its funding by the MoD the 'Survive the Drive' courses for military personnel would recommence but might be held less frequently.

24/22.8 AM Gillion reported that during this quarter 543 Safe & Well Visits were undertaken, an increase of 33% compared with the same period in the previous year. There were also 509 referrals from partners in the quarter, which was a 4.5% increase over the same period in the previous year. A total of 46 Safeguarding referrals were received. In reply to a question from the Chair, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole explained the process

for Safe and Well referrals and that the Safeguarding Boards identified trends. Cllr Paul Sample referred to a property in his Salisbury electoral ward which had been the subject of a Safe and Well and Fire Prevention intervention and requested an update from the officers.

- 24/22.9 The number of accidental dwelling fires in quarter 1 was 29 compared with 32 in the same quarter in 2023.
- 24/22.10 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 24/22.11 AM Gillion reported that four Prohibition Notices and six Enforcement Notices had been served in the quarter and that operational crews had made 186 Business Fire Safety Checks across the Service. The officers replied to questions from Cllr Pip Ridout on the circumstances when prohibition and enforcement notices were served.
- 24/22.12 AM Gillion highlighted that the 63 automatic fire alarms attended in non-domestic premises was a decrease from 123 in the previous quarter. This was due to Service's revised policy to extend the call challenge to 24 hours (from 8:00am to 6:00pm previously).
- 24/22.13 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**
- 24/22.14 The average response times were 11.43 minutes for sleeping risk first pump, 14.20 minutes for other buildings first pump and 15.22 minutes for road traffic collisions first pump.
- 24/22.15 Appliance availability was also discussed, which was 97.7% for wholetime and 55.9% for on-call for quarter 1. The Chair requested that future reports include the optimum response time to provide qualitative data to the figures. The officers confirmed that context could be included to aid transparency of the reported response figures, which might be in the form of a red, amber, green (RAG) rating with narrative.
- 24/22.16 AM Gillion reported on incidents attended during the quarter and that there had been no fire deaths during the period, with three incidents with the potential for further fire deaths awaiting a Coroner's verdict. Details were provided on the Operational Effectiveness Database (OED), which was to evaluate and improve operational performance. Information was also provided on the multi-agency training exercises attended.
- 24/22.17 Members noted the summary of incidents presented at the meeting. In reply to an observation from the Chair that at an incident a water carrier from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service had been utilised, it was explained that assets were mobilised via Fire Control that were nearest to the incident in accordance with the Network Fire Service Partnership arrangements. It was added that the Service had recently taken delivery of four new water carriers. The Committee also discussed fires at recycling and landfill sites, with lithium batteries a possible cause. Cllr Sample enquired about arrangements to respond to a potential fire at Salisbury Cathedral and the officers provided a detailed reply.

24/22.18 Demand Summary

24/22.19 The Key Performance Indicators for the quarter were explained to the Committee. Attendance was for 352 false alarms attended; 29 accidental dwelling fires; 70 deliberate fires (primary and secondary) and 335 special service incidents attended.

24/22.20 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

24/22.21 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 1.

24/23 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

24/23.1 The Chair enquired as to how the Committee could scrutinise the impact on service delivery that might result from the resourcing and savings programme in order that potential problems could be identified. The officers replied that a reduction in the number of incidents with injury and deaths following accidental fires were indicators, which were decreasing.

24/23.2 In considering Service response times, the context of the data in Wiltshire's rural landscape needed to be transparent. The Service took measures when failing to meet response standards. Communication to both the public and Members was important to assist in understanding.

24/23.3 The officers replied to Members' questions in respect of changes proposed in the resourcing and savings programme at Marlborough and Trowbridge fire stations.

24/24 Date of Next Meeting

24/24.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 28 November 2024 at 10:00am at Trowbridge Fire Station, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge.

The meeting closed at 11:25

Signed: _____