



DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 19 November 2024, 10.00am at Room 106 at the Civic Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth.

Members present:

Cllr Paul Hilliard (Chair)
Cllr Cameron Adams
Cllr Olivia Brown
Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr Clare Weight

Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Director of Community Safety, Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Stuart Gillion
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw (via MS Teams)

24/26 Welcome

24/26.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers, including new Member Cllr Olivia Brown.

24/27 Apologies

24/27.1 No apologies were received.

24/28 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

24/28.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures

24/29 Public questions

24/29.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

24/30 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 28

Initials _____

August 2024

24/30.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

24/30.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

24/31 Action progress report

24/31.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 28 August 2024 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

24/31.2 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.

24/32 Performance monitoring and briefing

24/32.1 Area Manager (AM), 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](#) .

24/32.2 Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.

24/32.3 AM Gillion highlighted the value of partnership working, including the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Community Safety Partnership, the BCP Serious Violence Duty Task and Finish Group, the Road Safety Partnerships, the Dorset Safeguarding Adult Board (DSAB) and the Local Resilience Forums. In reply to a question from Cllr Olivia Brown, the officers stated that the term 'transitional safeguarding' would be clarified for the Member. Examples of work undertaken by the Local Resilience Forum were also provided where all partners worked collaboratively, for instance on wide area flooding. This included undertaking long term planning from the National Risk Register, which would be distilled into the local risk register. It was noted that Assistant Chief Officer Jill McCrae was Vice Chair of both the Dorset and Wiltshire Forums.

24/32.4 AM Gillion reported that the availability of on-call appliances was 80.7%. Wholtime appliance availability was 96.2%, which was a good figure and within target. AM Gillion 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. In reply to a

Initials _____

question from Cllr Clare Weight the officers explained how succession planning to maintain availability was actioned. This included studying cohorts of firefighters approaching retirement age and providing training on, for example, incident command and heavy goods vehicle driving to ensure that the correct mix of skill sets were available. Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Director of Community Safety, Andy Cole added that if required, firefighters could be interchanged between watches and stations to ensure that crews with the required mix of skills were available for response.

- 24/32.5 The percentage of operational competence in date of staff was good and in line with corporate targets, with all exceeding 90%.
- 24/32.6 AM Gillion drew attention to the social media activity which was aligned to the National Fire Chiefs Council campaigns, for example regarding chimney fire safety and gas safety weeks. The key prevention safety messages were shared across various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.com. Social media had been viewed 262,238 times with 47,259 views on gas safety and 12,495 views on Facebook regarding e-bikes and charging batteries. The Committee raised questions regarding fires in lithium batteries, including e-bikes, and the safety education messages that were provided by the Service. The officers explained that one of the causes of fires was the use of incorrect chargers and batteries being left to charge overnight and unsupervised. Members observed that student accommodation and e-bikes stored in communal areas of shared accommodation presented a particular risk and should be targeted in publicity. The officers replied that the literature provided for the safe use of lithium batteries would be reviewed to give clear advice.
- 24/32.7 Details were provided on road safety events and also the number of education inputs in quarter 2. In the quarter, 1,438 children and young people had received educational input, comprising 1,212 via their main education provider, 207 via pre-schools, nurseries, children's groups and ad-hoc engagements and 19 children attended a story session. The officers stated that following the conclusions of the recent His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services report, school visits and virtual education packages were targeted on a risk-based approach to communities, for example schools in heathland areas were specifically targeted to help prevent heathland fires. Schools were now ranked based upon the number of accidental dwelling fires with children living at homes within the stations area, the response time and the index of deprivation data taken into consideration. The education packages were developed in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership and were available for all school key stages.
- 24/32.8 There were seven firesetter referrals in the quarter and five firesetter cases assigned to advisors, with no cases being closed. The two cases not assigned were at the choice of the individuals.
- 24/32.9 There were 522 safe and well visits completed in quarter 2 and 242 attempted interventions. A total of 53 Safeguarding referrals were raised by staff. The number of accidental dwelling fires in quarter 2 was 45 compared with 55 in the same period in the same quarter in 2023.

Initials _____

- 24/32.10 In reply to a question from the Chair, the officers informed the meeting that an improved Members' dashboard was being developed to allow enhanced scrutiny of the priority areas covered by the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees.
- 24/32.11 **Priority 2 - protect you and the environment from harm**
- 24/32.12 Wholetime operational crews had carried out 171 business fire safety checks in the quarter across the Service relating to risk based low level fire safety activity.
- 24/32.13 AM Gillion reported that 82 automatic fire alarm were attended in non-domestic premises in the quarter compared with 83 in the previous quarter. The call challenge procedure had been extended to 24 hours (from 8:00am to 6:00pm at present) to reduce further unwanted automatic fire alarm calls and provide savings. Building regulation consultations and licensing consultations continued to be monitored.
- 24/32.14 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**
- 24/32.15 The average response times were 06.30 minutes for sleeping risk first pump, 09.47 minutes for sleeping risk second pump, 06.44 minutes for other buildings first pump, 08.49 minutes for other buildings second pump and 07.17 minutes for road traffic collisions first pump. ACFO Cole observed that the average response times indicated that fire appliances were well located to provide a rapid response.
- 24/32.16 There had been no potential fire deaths in the quarter 2 period, with three incidents remaining with the potential for fire deaths that were awaiting a Coroner's verdict. Details were provided on the Operational Effectiveness Database (OED), which was to evaluate and improve operational performance. In reply to a question from Cllr Weight, it was explained that smoke hoods had been introduced after the Grenfell fire. There were many innovative developments to assist in firefighting, for example the use of drones, but the Service had to take into consideration the costs of such items and achieve a balance to provide the best of developments that were cost effective.
- 24/32.17 Members noted the summary of incidents presented at the meeting. The Committee discussed with the officers the lines of responsibility for rescues in water.
- 24/32.18 The officers answered Members' questions on the Service's involvement in the multi-agency exercise and planning.
- 24/32.19 **Demand Summary**
- 24/32.20 The Key Performance Indicators for the quarter were explained to the Committee. Attendance was for 661 automatic fire alarms which resulted in a false alarm; 87 accidental dwelling fires; 161 deliberate fires (primary and secondary) and 505 special service incidents attended.

Initials _____

24/32.22 The Chair thanked AM Gillion for the presentation.

24/32.23 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2 2024

24/33 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

24/33.1 The officers responded to questions raised by Members relating to the removal of the second appliance at Poole Fire Station. It was confirmed that the numbers of call outs and speed of response were being monitored.

24/34 Date of Next meeting

24/34.1 The Chair stated that the date of the next Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 19 February 2025 from 10.00am. As this date fell within the academic half term, it was requested that an alternative date be explored.

The meeting closed at 11.15.

Signed: _____