



Draft Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at 10:00am on 27 February 2025 at Stonehenge room at the Training & Development Centre, Hopton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes.

These are draft minutes to be approved by the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting.

Members present:

Cllr Daniel Cave
Cllr Paul Oatway
Cllr Paul Sample

Officer attendance:

Temporary Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (TACFO), Marc House
Area Manager (AM) Response, Darren Langdown
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

25/01 Appointment of Chair for the meeting

25/01.1 In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Paul Oatway was unanimously appointed Chair for the meeting.

25/01.2 RESOLVED: That Cllr Paul Oatway be appointed Chair for the meeting

25/02 Welcome

25/02.1 Cllr Oatway welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

25/03 Apologies

25/03.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Kelvin Nash and Cllr Pip Ridout.

25/04 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

25/04.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

25/05 Public Questions

25/05.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

25/06 Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee (LPS) meeting on 28 November 2024

25/06.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

25/06.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

25/07 Action Progress Report

25/07.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting held on 28 November 2024 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

25/07.2 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.

25/08 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 3

25/08.1 Area Manager (AM) Response, Darren Langdown presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 3, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee.

25/08.2 **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](#).

25/08.3 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

25/08.4 AM Langdown provided detail of the Services' representation on various boards and partnerships and its contribution to multi-agency working. It was explained that the Group Managers attended numerous external meetings and consideration was being given to prioritising attendance to ease workloads.

25/08.5 Members enquired about the types of community groups attended and how the wide range of languages encountered was dealt with. AM Langdown spoke of the different national language packages available on YouTube, for example for Afghan resettlement, and how these were incorporated into incident data. Examples were provided of the different challenges that were

encountered within ethnic groups for example in undertaking home visits and understanding religious and cultural differences in home practises. This understanding was extended to safe and well visits, protection and response. Language line was also available to crews at the scene. The Authority's website, domestic leaflets and information on stations and appliances could also be translated.

- 25/08.6 AM Langdown reported that the availability of on-call appliances was 56% and 97.50% for wholetime. The officers explained 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. A detailed review of the on-call staff contracts (HR72) was being undertaken to seek contract alignment with service requirements. There were 10 stations across the service remaining to be reviewed. It was noted that on-call provision was a complex challenge.
- 25/08.7 The operational competencies of staff were good and in line with corporate targets.
- 25/08.8 AM Langdown drew attention to the social media activity which was aligned to the National Fire Chiefs Council campaigns, for example regarding Christmas, smoke alarm testing and electrical safety. The key prevention safety messages were shared across various social media platforms and reached 512,743 people. The most seen post on Facebook was regarding air fryers and was viewed by 121,926 users. There had been a number of national themed campaigns for older people and grandparent days, and the officers explained that these were beneficial where grandparents undertook childcare duties and these campaigns were aimed to address fire safety and road safety. Other campaigns were Candle Safety Week, Halloween, Diwali, Bonfire Night and CO awareness. Members observed that short videos, for example those shown on TikTok, were very popular and were easily copied and shared and could be used by the Service. The officers replied that the Service worked with partners on social media output and that media work around recruitment was being considered.
- 25/08.9 Details were provided on the number of road safety and education inputs in quarter 3. In the quarter, 1,474 children and young people had received educational input, comprising 1,013 via their main education provider and 318 via other education. There were 16 new firesetter referrals in the quarter and there were 18 other cases currently open.
- 25/08.10 AM Langdown highlighted that the Safe Drive Stay Alive road safety campaign was being replaced by the Go Drive programme, which was a national campaign. AM Langdown stated that the Survive the Drive road safety campaign aimed at armed forces personnel had ceased due to the Ministry of Defence changing their delivery and funding model. Cllr Oatway stated that he would bring this to the attention of Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Andy Cole, to make representation to the local Garrison Commander for the training to recommence. Cllr Paul Sample supported this, citing the number of young drivers that this would be of benefit to.

- 25/08.11 There were 514 safe and well visits carried out in quarter 3, which was a decrease of 7.2% from the same quarter in the previous year. Safe and well visits were now more targeted. A total of 86 Safeguarding referrals were also submitted within the Wiltshire area and 687 partner referrals. There had been 45 specialist smoke detector systems installed for people who were deaf or hard of hearing.
- 25/08.12 The number of accidental dwelling fires in quarter 3 was 33, which was 17 lower than the same period last year.
- 25/08.13 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 25/08.14 Wholetime operational crews had completed 166 business fire safety checks in the quarter across the Service relating to risk based low level fire safety activity.
- 25/08.15 AM Langdown reported on the automatic fire alarms strategy at non-domestic premises across the Wiltshire Group area. In quarter 3, 85 automatic fire alarms (AFAs) were attended in non-domestic premises in Wiltshire, compared with 82 in the previous quarter.
- 25/08.16 AM Langdown highlighted that the Authority was a statutory consultee in building regulation and licensing consultations.
- 25/08.17 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**
- 25/08.18 The average response times were 13.25 minutes for sleeping risk first pump, 12.24 minutes for other buildings first pump and 14.14 minutes for road traffic collisions first pump.
- 25/08.19 Across the group, His Majesty's Coroner had, to date, confirmed two fire deaths in 2024-25. There remained two incidents with the potential for further 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.
- 25/08.20 Members observed the summary of notable incidents attended in the quarter and the multi-agency exercises that the Service had participated in. Members asked questions about the ability of appliances to operate in flood conditions and whether the use of drones was being considered. The officers responded that the larger P4 Scania appliances were usually located at wading stations that could provide technical rescue in flooding situations. Consideration was being given to the use of drones and their use was presently provided in conjunction with the police, councils and voluntary organisations.
- 25/08.21 **Demand summary**
- 25/08.22 The Key Performance Indicators for the quarter were explained to the Committee. Attendance was for 877 automatic fire alarms which resulted in a

false alarm; 93 accidental dwelling fires; 181 deliberate fires (primary and secondary) and 1011 special service incidents attended.

25/08.23 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

25/08.24 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3 2025.

25/09 Matters raised by Members (agreed with Chair)

25/09.1 There were no additional matters arising.

25/10 Date of next meeting

25/10.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as Thursday 28 August 2025 at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 11:40

Signed: _____