



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 19 November 2025, 10.00am at the Phoebe Room at the Civic Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth.

Members present:

Cllr Paul Hilliard (Chair)
Cllr Michelle Dower
Cllr Peter Miles
Cllr Clare Weight

Officer attendance:

Area Manager (AM), Bradley Stevens
Group Manager (GM) Shaun Milton
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

25/19 Welcome

25/19.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

25/20 Apologies

25/20.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Olivia Brown and Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Response, Darren Langdown

25/21 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

25/21.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

25/22 Public questions

25/22.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

25/23 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 August 2025

25/23.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

25/23.2 Cllr Claire Weight referred to comments she had made at the meeting held on 20 August 2025 requesting that as an action data on the second appliance to sleeping risk be included in future Performance reports. It was agreed to include this as an action in the Action Progress Report (minute 25/24 post refers).

25/23.3 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

25/24 Action progress report

25/24.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 20 August 2025 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

25/24.2 Cllr Weight requested that data on the second appliance to sleeping risk be included in future Performance reports. It was agreed to include this in the Action Progress Report for consideration.

25/24.3 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding and that that data on the second appliance to sleeping risk be considered for inclusion in future Performance reports.

25/25 Performance monitoring and briefing

25/25.1 Area Manager (AM), Bradley Stevens and Group Manager (GM) Shaun Milton 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](#) .

It was explained to the Committee that Performance Monitoring and Briefing

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would be in future presented to Members in a new format. A performance dashboard for each of the priority areas would be presented supported by a presentation of the highlights of the service provision for the quarter. The data for year to date referred to quarter 2 – 31 July to 30 September and was compared with the corresponding quarter in the previous year. When necessary, officers would provide additional detail to the Committee on an exception basis. It was clarified that the data presented was in Minutes and Seconds and now included a five-year history, as previously requested by Members. The quarterly data was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

25/25.2 Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.

25/25.3

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Number of accidental dwelling fires - BCP Council	64	55
Number of home fire safety visits Quarterly – BCP Council	416	Not Applicable
Number of safeguarding referrals from DWFRS- BCP Council	46	Not Applicable

25/25.4 The Officers reported that there had been a slight increase in response times to domestic properties with a sleeping risk and the possible reasons for this were explained to Members. The reasons would be given consideration by the officers to seek improvements and it was noted that response times remained within the 10-minute target time.

25/25.5 Arising out of consideration for the dashboard data for Priority 1, Members asked the following questions which were answered by the officers.

25/25.6 Cllr Weight enquired if the rise in the number of accidental dwelling fires signified the trough of a long-term trend, where prevention work did not add the value that it once had. The officers agreed that there had been a decrease over the last 5 years and that the reasons for accidental dwelling fires were predominantly attributed to cooking. This could include distraction and substance and alcohol misuse. There was also an increase in fires involving technology, including batteries.

25/25.7 Cllr Weight asked if a distinction could be made in the recording of data between deliberate fires with intent and those caused through carelessness. The Officers replied that the categorisation of such data was difficult to make.

25/25.8 The Officers responded to Cllr Michelle Dower’s questions on which agency decided to visit a vulnerable person. It was explained that a multi-agency partner approach was taken through risk information held on the Community Fire Risk Management Information System (CFRMIS).

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Requests were triaged so that the most urgent were visited first. Crews would give advice and education to those at risk, which could include repeated visits when required. Data was held for one year and then refreshed to ensure that it was current and up to date.

25/25.9 The Chair requested that that average response time for the second appliance be included in future performance reports to provide a more complete picture, as agreed and included in the Action Progress Report (minute 25/24 ante refers).

25/25.10 **Priority 2 - protect you and the environment from harm**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Automatic fire alarms which result in a false alarm Quarterly - BCP Council	406	421
Automatic fire alarms which result in a false alarm - non domestic premises - BCP Council (year to date)	102	129
Number of business fire safety checks undertaken crews - BCP Council	29	Not Applicable

25/25.11 The Officers commented on the work of the protection team and the additional burden of conducting business fire safety checks on medium rise buildings, of which there could be as many as 15,000 – 20,000 in the Service’s area. Fire crews would be asked to assist with basic fire safety building inspections which would assist in their capture of knowledge about these buildings, but this had to be balanced with the need to continue operational training and readiness to respond.

25/25.12 Arising out of consideration for the dashboard data for Priority 2, the officers replied to the Chair’s questions on Martyn's Law, the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. The Officers replied that the Service was considering its own estate to take measures to improve preparedness and security against terrorist attacks. This included measures to prevent theft of equipment that might be of benefit to criminals.

25/25.13 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

25/25.14 The quarterly data for Priority 3 was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

25/25.15 In reply to questions from Cllr Dower and Cllr Peter Miles as to whether training was being adapted to respond to an increase in flooding incidents, the Officers explained the different levels of competencies of Fire Fighters to be trained in water rescue and the location of trained crews in the highest risks areas for flooding.

25/25.16 **Demand Summary**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date	
Number of fires attended - BCP Council	332	227	
Number of special services incidents attended - BCP Council	347	537	
Number of incidents attended which turned out to be false alarms - BCP Council	534	586	

25/25.17 The Officers replied to Cllr Miles' questions about entering a premise where there was a dog loose. The position of supporting other emergency services was also explained with a call challenge in place to establish if a life was at risk, with 'right care, right person' borne in mind.

25/25.18 **Presentation**

25/25.19 The officers provided a presentation on the Service's engagement in quarter 2. This included community engagement and notable incidents attended.

25/25.20 The officers replied to Members' questions relating to the Major Incident at Holt Heath from 9 August 2025 and the impact on service delivery, including business continuity arrangements. It was also noted that there had been no significant impact to the Service on Bonfire Night.

25/25.21 The Officers also outlined the attendance of senior officers at events. It was commented that in a wider context there was insufficient officers to attend all events that they were requested to attend and events that had the most value to local people and the Service were prioritised.

25/25.22 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

25/25.23 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2 2025

25/26 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

25/26.1 There were no additional questions raised by Members.

25/27 Date of Next meeting

25/27.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 18 February 2026 from 10.00am.

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The meeting closed at 11.30.

Signed: _