



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 26
November 2025, 10.00am at Swindon Fire Station, Drove Road, Swindon**

Members present:

Cllr Abdul Amin (Chair)
Cllr Matthew Courtliff
Cllr Kevin Small

Officer attendance:

Area Manager (AM), Bradley Stevens
Group Manager (GM) Dave Slawinski
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw
(via MS Teams)

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 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 Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 August 2025

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

25/23.2 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 27 August 2025 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

25/24.2 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.

25/25 Performance monitoring and briefing

25/25.1 Area Manager (AM), Bradley Stevens and Group Manager (GM) Dave Slawinski 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 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.**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Number of accidental dwelling fires - Swindon Council	25	23
Number of home fire safety visits Quarterly – Swindon Council	272	Not Applicable
Number of safeguarding referrals from DWFRS - Swindon Council	33	Not Applicable

25/25.4 The Officers reported that there had been a slight increase in response times to Road Traffic Collisions and the possible reasons for this were explained to Members.

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 Kevin Small enquired about the merits of call control centres being shared between Fire, Police and the Ambulance Service. The officers outlined the wide variety of calls that the Police might receive and how the Fire Service benefited from the added detail that a dedicated Fire Control Centre provided to inform Crews. Cllr Matthew Courtliff mentioned the call log systems used by Network Rail, and the Officers’ provided details on the different call log systems that were used by the Fire Service and the Police. It was noted that nationally there were moves to have shared incident information to provide multiagency awareness.

25/25.7 In reply to Members’ questions, the Officers provided details on the education that was provided by the Service on the use of lithium batteries, air fryers and general kitchen safety.

25/25.8 Members were invited to attend the new Go Drive campaign, which had replaced the Safe Drive Stay Alive educational programme. The Officers reported that the Go Drive campaign had been well received.

25/25.9 The Officers explained that a multi-agency partner approach was taken to home safety visits (formerly Safe and Well). Requests were triaged so that the most urgent were visited first. Those with the highest risk were visited by the Prevention Team as a priority and would be seen within the 56-day target figure for home visits.

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 - Swindon Council	245	223
Automatic fire alarms which result in a false alarm - non domestic premises - Swindon Council (year to date)	42	70
Number of business fire safety checks undertaken crews – Swindon Council	26	Not Applicable

25/25.11 The Officers commented on the work of the prevention team and the additional burden of conducting business fire safety checks on medium rise buildings, of which there could be in the range of 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. The Officers added that the Service might become a statutory consultee on Battery Energy Storage Site (BESS) planning applications, which would be an additional task for the Fire Safety Team.

25/25.12 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

25/25.13 The quarterly data for Priority 3 was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

25/25.14 AM Stevens referred to the high levels of competencies for Fire Fighters, for example in the use of breathing apparatus and incident control and driving. On-call Fire Fighters would be prioritised for training. It was an intention keep Fire Fighters safe with the best training, but also to increase the level of community engagement by Crews for them to become role models. Cllr Courtliff commented on the effectiveness of this role by Community Police Officers in helping to break social boundaries.

25/25.15 **Demand Summary**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Number of fires attended - Swindon Council	149	98
Number of special services incidents attended - Swindon Council	201	300

Number of incidents attended which turned out to be false alarms - Swindon Council	307	301	
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25/25.16 The Officers highlighted the decrease in the number of special service incidents attended. This was attributed to the success of call challenge by Fire Control, working in collaboration with the other emergency services in the region.

25/25.17 In reply to Members' questions, the Officers explained that the increase in the number of incidents attended which turned out to be false alarms was in part caused by the reporting of wildfires, several of which could be a domestic bonfire.

25/25.18 **Presentation**

25/25.19 The Officers provided a presentation on the Service's engagement in quarter 2. This included community engagement, station open days, multi-agency exercises and notable incidents attended.

25/25.20 The Officers replied to Members' questions relating to the work with Wiltshire Police to reduce serious crime. This included a knife amnesty bin located outside of Drove Road Fire station, Swindon. The Committee requested to be kept updated on this initiative.

25/25.21 The Chair thanked the Officers for the presentation and asked that the presentation be made available to Members of the Committee.

25/25.22 **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 Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 25 February 2026 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.15.

Signed: