



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 November 2025, 10.00am at the Training and Development Centre, Hopton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes.

Members present:

Cllr Boaz Barry
Cllr Matt Bragg
Cllr Andrew Davis

Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Response, Darren Langdown
Area Manager (AM), Bradley Stevens
Group Manager (GM) Dave Slawinski
Group Manager (GM) Shaun Milton
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

25/19 Appointment of Chair for the meeting

25/19.1 In the absence of Cllr Paul Sample (Chair), Cllr Andrew Davis was unanimously appointed Chair for the meeting.

25/20 Welcome

25/20.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

25/21 Apologies

25/21.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Sample (Chair), Cllr Brian Dalton and Cllr Paul Oatway.

25/22 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

25/22.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

25/23 Public questions

25/23.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

25/24 Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 28 August 2025

25/24.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

25/24.3 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

25/25 Action progress report

25/25.1 The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 28 August 2025 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

25/25.3 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.

25/26 Performance monitoring and briefing

25/26.1 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.

25/26.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Number of accidental dwelling fires - Wiltshire Council	41	35
Number of home fire safety visits Quarterly – Wiltshire Council	480	Not Applicable
Number of safeguarding referrals from DWFRS - Wiltshire Council	47	Not Applicable

25/26.4 Arising out of consideration for the dashboard data for Priority 1, Members asked the following questions which were answered by the officers.

25/26.5 Cllr Matt Bragg enquired about the distribution of road traffic collisions (RTCs) across the Wiltshire geographic area in addition to data on the calls received and whether additional details and data were available. The Officers explained that matters regarding RTCs were studied in detail by the Road Safety Partnerships.

25/26.6 In considering the data presented on, for example, accidental dwelling fires and RTCs and the five-year trends, the Committee considered that its interpretation would be enhanced by the inclusion of bar charts to help explain the data accumulation over time, for example by each quarter. AM Stevens replied that he would discuss this improvement with the Data and Analytics team.

25/26.7 In reply to Members’ questions regarding accidental dwelling fires, 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.

25/26.8 It was noted that the increase in wildfires was associated with the increase deliberate fires.

25/26.9 Cllr Bragg referred to the increase in the numbers of fire injuries and enquired if it would be possible for the dashboard to show statistics of how many of these had come from singular or multiple incidents.

25/26.10 AM Stevens informed the Committee that Safe and Well was now entitled Home Fire Safety. More basic inspections were undertaken by whole time Fire Fighters, which assisted productivity. It was more difficult for on-call Fire fighters to undertake such inspections due to time constraints.

25/26.11 **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 - Wiltshire Council	297	361
Automatic fire alarms which result in a false alarm - non domestic premises - Wiltshire Council (year to date)	78	144
Number of business fire safety checks undertaken crews – Wiltshire Council	23	Not Applicable

25/26.12 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.

25/26.13 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

25/26.14 The quarterly data for Priority 3 was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

25/26.15 AM Stevens referred to the increase in training competencies that had taken place across the quarter, for breathing apparatus, incident command and driving.

25/26.16 The officer responded to Members’ comments regarding the numbers of people rescued in fire related incidents.

25/26.17 **Demand Summary**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Number of fires attended - Wiltshire Council	387	246
Number of special services incidents attended - Wiltshire Council	415	716
Number of incidents attended which turned out to be false alarms - Wiltshire Council	448	575

Initials _____

25/26.18 **Presentation**

25/26.19 The officers provided a presentation on the Service's engagement in quarter 2. This included community engagement, multi-agency exercises and notable incidents attended.

25/26.20 The officers replied to questions from Cllr Andrew Davis about the crop fire at Deverill Road, Warminster on 13 July 2025 which had caused some damage to garden fences, sheds and a conservatory, with 80 residents evacuated as a precaution. It was explained that the Service collaborated with landowners and the National Farmers Union and Young Farmers to provide fire education, for example on the use of fire breaks. The use of water carrier vehicles in dealing with such remote rural incidents and the Memorandum of Understanding with Wessex Search and Rescue were also explained.

25/26.21 AM Stevens added that it was an objective to increase the level of community engagement by Crews, including on-call, for them to become role models and the Service to be a trustworthy name. It was noted that the open day at Salisbury Fire Station held on 23 August 2025 had been well attended.

25/26.22 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

25/26.23 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2 2025

25/27 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

25/27.1 There were no additional questions raised by Members.

25/28 Date of Next meeting

25/28.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 26 February 2026 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.10.

Signed: _____