



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 26/14

Draft Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 February 2026, 10.00am in the Royal Hampshire Regiment Committee Room at the Civic Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth.

These are draft minutes to be approved by the BCP LPS Committee at their next meeting.

Members present:

Cllr Paul Hilliard (Chair)

Cllr Clare Weight

Cllr Duncan Sowry-House (Dorset Council Member in attendance)

Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Response, Darren Langdown
Group Manager (GM), Dave Adamson

Assistant Chief Officer (ACO), Director of Corporate Services and
Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority, Vikki Shearing

Democratic Services Manager, David Shaw

26/01 Welcome

26/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

26/02 Apologies

26/02.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Olivia Brown and Cllr Michelle Dower. Cllr Peter Miles was not in attendance.

26/03 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

26/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

26/04 Public questions

26/04.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had

Initials _____

been received.

26/05 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 November 2025

26/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

26/05.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

26/06 Action progress report

26/06.1 The Democratic Services Manager referred to action 369 from the meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2025, that data on the second appliance to sleeping risk be considered for inclusion in future Performance reports. Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Response, Darren Langdown provided an update and it was confirmed that the Performance Dashboard had been revised to include this information. The action was therefore closed.

26/06.2 RESOLVED: That action 369 from the meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2025, be closed.

26/07 Performance monitoring and briefing

26/07.1 ACFO Langdown and Group Manager (GM) Dave Adamson presented to Members the Performance Monitoring and Briefing for quarter 3, 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 noted that Performance Monitoring and Briefing was presented to the Committee by way of a Performance Dashboard for each of the priority areas supported by a presentation of the highlights of the service provision for the quarter. The data for year to date referred to quarter 3 – 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025 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 included a five-year history. The quarterly data was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

26/07.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

26/07.3

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date
Number of accidental dwelling fires - BCP Council	51	57
Number of home fire safety visits Quarterly – BCP Council	483	Not Applicable
Number of safeguarding referrals from DWFRS- BCP Council	45	Not Applicable

26/07.4 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. These included issues arising with appliance availability, the on-call model and on-call recruitment and providing skill sets at certain fire stations, for example in driver training. It was an objective to make a newly appointed firefighter fully trained with three months, rather than the 12 months that was presently the case. The welfare of firefighters would be taken into consideration to ensure that they would not be overwhelmed by a shortened training programme. The officers would monitor the reasons for the slight increase in response times to seek improvements.

26/07.5 In reply to a question from Cllr Clare Weight the officers explained the role of the Service in responded to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). This included requests from other emergency services to make the scene of the RTC safe, for example in dealing with diesel spills.

26/07.6 Arising out of consideration for the dashboard data for Priority 1, Members asked that future Performance Dashboards include a mean tend line to make comparison of figures more meaningful. It was also requested that the average response time for the second appliance be included in future performance reports for Corporate Target 05 – We will achieve a 10-minute response time on average, for the first appliance in attendance at confirmed fires in sleeping risk premises.

26/07.7 **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	414	466
Automatic fire alarms which result in a false	98	145

Initials _____

alarm - non domestic premises - BCP Council (year to date)		
Number of business fire safety checks undertaken crews - BCP Council	75	Not Applicable

26/07.08 In reply to Members' questions, the officers commented on the risk information that was available to both wholetime fire stations and those staffed by on-call firefighters. The information was compiled by the Service's Risk Team and firefighters would visit all high risks within their fire station ground area. Risk information was also carried on appliances by means of a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and tabletop exercises would also be undertaken to identified risk sites. These may include, for example, hospitals and care homes. Risk information was being reviewed to identify key meaningful risks for immediate actions.

26/07.09 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**

26/07.10 The quarterly data for Priority 3 was discussed as set out in the dashboard.

26/07.11 In reply to Members' questions, the officers commented that fire rescues included cases where a person was led to safety by a safe route but did not include those who self-rescued, but this information was recorded elsewhere. It was observed that building design, fire retardant furniture and changes in cooking habits had led to a fall in fire rescues, but there was now a rise in lithium-ion battery fire incidents. Similarly, improvements in vehicle design had led to a fall in the number of persons trapped in RTCs that required vehicle extrication, but the Service would still attend a RTC to make the scene safe when requested by partner agencies.

26/07.12 The officers replied to Cllr Weight's enquiry on the replacement of breathing apparatus when the present contract ended in 2028. It was explained that the introduction of the new breathing apparatus would be rolled out over a phased 8–10-month period.

26/07.13 **Demand Summary**

Title	Current Year-to-Date	Last Year-to-Date	
Number of fires attended - BCP Council	193	184	
Number of special services incidents attended - BCP Council	829	807	
Number of incidents attended which turned out to be false alarms - BCP Council	544	624	

Initials _____

- 26/07.14 The quarterly data for the Demand Summary was discussed as set out in the dashboard
- 26/07.15 **Presentation**
- 26/07.16 The officers provided a presentation on the Service's engagement in quarter 3. This included community engagement, multi-agency exercises and notable incidents attended.
- 26/07.17 The officers replied to Members' questions relating to the Major Incident at the Holt Heath wildfire and the implications for heathland management to prevent wildfires. It was also noted that there had been no significant impact to the Service on Bonfire Night.
- 26/07.18 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.
- 26/07.19 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3 2026**
- 26/08 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**
- 26/08.1 The officers replied in detail to Cllr Duncan Sowry-House's questions on the Service's safeguards to fire fighters from contamination and 'forever chemicals' to personal protective equipment (PPE). Actions taken included the cleaner cab initiative, raising awareness and training, risk assessments, laundry of kit and use of spare kit limiting its handling, showering, providing clean routes through fire stations and attention to national learning from the National Fire Chief Council's Working Group on the topic.
- 26/09 Date of Next meeting**
- 26/09.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 19 August 2026 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.40.

Signed: _____