

Southern Wilts Area Board Report, March 2018

At their meeting on 9th February 2018, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority approved a budget of £54.526 million for 2018-19.

Within the recommendation was the requirement to increase council tax with a 4p per week increase for Band D properties in Bournemouth, Dorset, Poole, Swindon and Wiltshire – an annual fire precept of £72.70 for the Fire and Rescue Service within the council tax for the year starting on 1 April 2018.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service's commitment to keeping communities safe, with what is one of the lowest operating budgets in the country, includes increasing its level of prevention and protection activity, which has led to the fire & rescue Service nationally driving down the number of fires over the past ten years by 50%.

Chief Fire Officer Ben Ansell said: "Members have approved a fire precept Band D that is still well below the national average, and we also this year received another large funding reduction, as the Government has granted us 5.8% less than last year. Despite that, we are investing even more in our on-call firefighters, who are so essential to maintaining fire cover in our predominantly rural areas.

"Alongside this, we are completely committed to our prevention and protection activities, targeting those most at risk at home, at work or on the roads, and we will continue working with all our partners, with a focus this year on the new Safety Centre, more Salamander courses, the Safe Drive Stay Alive programme for schools and the military. Together with local authorities and health partners, we will deliver a range of schemes that will positively benefit all of our communities."

The Authority also approved proposals today to establish revised governance arrangements which will save up to £38k per year in Members allowances and provide a more streamlined approach to strategic decision-making.

Cllr Spencer Flower, Chairman of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "We have a fantastic Fire and Rescue Service, and the Authority decisions today will ensure that the increased activity in prevention and protection such as Safe & Well checks, community safety education and partnerships can be strengthened. We deliver so much to our local communities, from a 24/7 emergency response to an ever-increasing range of personal and business safety activities, and we are as committed as ever to ensuring this continues."

Community Engagement

The station are using Pinpoint to target specific properties for Safe and Well visits. This is a software package that receives information from partners such as the NHS and uses this to prioritise people who are most vulnerable to fire. Crews are then providing the people at



these addresses with information and further support should they want it in the form of a Safe and Well visit.

Anyone can apply for a FREE Safe and Well visit. They are prioritised for those most at risk using some simple questions:

Does only one adult live at the property?

Would anyone living in the property have difficulty in escaping the property in the event of a fire?

Does anyone living within the property have any impairments (Physical or Mental)?

Does anyone within this property hoard?

Has the occupier been discharged from hospital in the last 4 weeks or use medical oxygen?

Does this property have no smoke detectors or old smoke detectors?

Is anyone living at the property a smoker?

Is anyone living at the property over 65 years old?

Is anyone living at the property over 85 years old?

Are portable/plug in heaters used in the property?

Do you consider yourself or anyone in the property as vulnerable?

We can also arrange visits to our fire stations or one of our safety centres. For more information or to make a booking for your school or pre-school, please visit our webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/school-visits/> or email enquiries@dwfire.org.uk

If you need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what you would do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

Response

Total Fire Calls for Salisbury Fire station; 01/07/17-31/08/17

January

Category	Incidents
False Alarm	20
Fire	8
Special Service	14
Total	42

February

Category	Incidents
False Alarm	22
Fire	11
Special Service	10
Total	43

Availability of Wholetime (1st) appliance;

100%

Availability of On-Call (2nd) appliance;

January %

Appliance	Day	Night	Average
31P2	82.06	96.77	89.42

February %

Appliance	Day	Night	Average
31P2	59	80.51	69.75

On-Call Recruitment

Recruitment is an ongoing issue. Despite this Salisbury RDS are still maintaining a very good availability of the appliance. They currently have 3 potential recruits working their way through the recruitment system and one trainee now on station. The station are working hard to maintain contact with them whilst they go through this process.

The service will be moving to new method of payment for its on-call staff. This will be a salary based scheme rather than utilising a retaining fee. This means on call staff will be rewarded for the cover they give rather than the incidents they attend. It will cost the service more money, but it is believed that it will result in better appliance availability.

Recruitment campaign

If anyone is interested in becoming an On Call Firefighter, visit the webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/> or pop in the station for a chat on Monday evenings between 7pm and 9pm (Salisbury) or Wednesday evenings 7pm – 9pm (Wilton and Amesbury).

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

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