

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at Hampshire
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 24 February, 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors: K. Chapman (Chairman); M. Cooper; A. Evans ; T. Knight; D. Simpson;

84 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor S. Darragh

85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should, normally at the time of the debate, declare their interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Fire Authority's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

There were no declarations of interest made by members under this item.

86 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held 22 November 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

87 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman confirmed at the start of the meeting that Item 8 had been withdrawn.

88 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made under this item.

89 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer (Item 6 in the Minute Book), which updated the Committee on how the Authority had performed against its key performance indicators during April – December 2011, and also provided a projection for the end of the year based on the current data.

It was noted that the target set in 2008 for Accidental Dwelling Fires would not be met. This is most likely due to a change in recording system in 2009 with some categories of fires recorded within this indicator when they would not have been on the old system. With regards to the increase in Casualties from Primary Fires on Page 6 of Appendix A; it was confirmed that risk analysis was underway.

Action: It was agreed that report detailing the risk information regarding the apparent increase in Casualties from Primary Fires would be brought to a future meeting.

The Committee enquired about charging persistent offenders for false alarm callouts for automatic fire detectors. It was confirmed that the Localism Bill only allowed charging in extreme circumstances of automatic fire detection after several warnings and advice being issued. This does not apply to lifts incidents. National guidance was being written to ensure that all Fire Authorities worked to the same criteria in terms of charging.

When discussing response times as stated on Pages 12 and 13 of Appendix A, it was noted that the Service target was to reach critical incidents within 8 minutes on 80% of occasions. The Committee noted that the target was not being met and were informed that response times were longer in certain parts of the county due to the location, and the fact that retained staff respond from their place of work or home. Response times to the incidents in these more rural areas therefore have an impact on the county average. It was acknowledged that other Fire and Rescue Authorities, such as Berkshire and Dorset, were used if an incident was close to the county border and they were able to get there quicker.

When examining the proposed targets, the Committee agreed that despite always striving to improve, it was not always viable to continually reduce or increase the targets as they would naturally level out when the Authority reached peak performance.

RESOLVED:

- a) The performance reports were supported, and the strategies to meet targets were endorsed
- b) The performance targets for 2012-2015 were supported.

90 PROGRESS AGAINST THE OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book), which provided a further update on progress against the operational self assessment done by the Authority.

The Chief Officer took Committee through the report. It was explained that there were no issues left outstanding and that Appendix B featured those actions that were contained in separate action plans or had become business as usual. The process had been worthwhile and it was confirmed that another Operational Assessment would be carried out next year.

Action: A further update would come to Committee later in the year.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee endorsed the progress made against the improvement plan.

**91 REPORT ON POST INCIDENT ACTIONS FOR INCIDENTS
ATTENDED AT WALPOLE PARK BOATING LAKE, GOSPORT,
INCIDENT NUMBER 11-04336**

This item was withdrawn from this meeting.