

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 18 September, 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors: K. Chapman (Chairman); I. Beagley; A. Evans; J. Frankum; R. Kimber; T. Knight; E. Neal; D. Simpson.

102 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Cooper.

103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful of their duty to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest was not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and their ability to disclose any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

No interests were declared under this item.

104 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held 27 June 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was asked whether Members had visited the current Basingstoke Station and as they had not, the Chairman agreed to make arrangements.

105 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements to make to the Committee.

106 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made under this item.

107 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 6 in the Minute Book), which updated Members on how the Authority was performing against key indicators.

The performance indicators detailed in the appendix to the report were considered by the Committee and a number of points were clarified. In particular, details of the process of target setting and the subsequent

work carried out with local authorities was explained. Members were interested in the rate of false alarms and it was agreed that in the future, the number of different buildings to which the call out rate refers also be included.

In discussion of the sickness absence rate, the Committee agreed that this was generally very low and acknowledging that it was the first time that the figures had been produced in this way, requested that further breakdowns be provided in the future to understand the underlying reasons.

RESOLVED:

The Committee endorsed the performance report and the strategies to meet the targets.

108 HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) which presented the first draft of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue strategic assessment.

The reasons for the strategic assessment were outlined. The process to develop organisational capacity and an Integrated Risk Management Plan was explained. Members discussed details of the report, such as the difficulties associated with inspecting houses of multiple occupancy.

Officers were congratulated on the work that had led to the production of the draft assessment.

RESOLVED:

The Committee supported the draft Hampshire Fire and Rescue Strategic Assessment (attached in appendix B).

109 VOLUNTEERS PROJECT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book), summarising the outcomes and benefits of the project and its future direction.

The background and objectives of the project as well as the nature of several volunteer roles and examples of success were highlighted.

Members welcomed the initiative and were particularly supportive of the improved connections it gave the Service with some areas of the community. The relationship between volunteers and retained fire fighters was explained, as were the links to the community resilience project. Methods of recruitment were discussed and Members were

pleased to hear that interest from the community had been high and demographically mixed. It was agreed that local Members should be informed of future volunteer recruitment in their areas.

RESOLVED:

The Committee supported the work done by volunteers and officers, and endorsed the project outcome and future plan.

110 SERVICE RESPONSE TO THE CORONER'S RULE 43 LETTER REGARDING AN INCIDENT AT WALPOLE LAKE, GOSPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 9 in the Minute Book), providing an overview of the Service's learning following the incident in Gosport.

Members discussed the coroner's judgement and the agreed outcomes as well as the response from the Service. In particular the nature of joint working with the other emergency services and the respective role of each was highlighted.

RESOLVED:

The Committee acknowledged and endorsed the Service's response to the Coroner's recommendations and the ongoing work with Hampshire Constabulary and South Central Ambulance Service.

111 SHIRLEY TOWERS – FUTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book), updating Members following the investigation process.

The work of the accident investigation team to date was outlined and it was noted that the majority of the emerging issues had already been dealt with. The six areas being taken forward with the Fire Brigade union and the ongoing work of the accident investigation team was explained and discussed.

RESOLVED:

The Committee endorsed the Service's response and subsequent development of an improvement programme in relation to the Shirley Towers incident.