

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 2 July 2013

PRESENT:

Councillors: K. Chapman (Chairman); F. Pearce (Vice Chairman); J. Wall; D. Simpson; M. Cooper; R. Chadd; M. Staplehurst; J. K. West

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Frankum.

2 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.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous Committee held on 16 April 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to the action for Minute 124 (page 2) the Chairman updated the group on proposals for Members to form a Risk and Planning Group, to focus on the Service's planning and risk strategy. It was intended that up to two members from each of the HFRA committees participate in the group. Councillor Pearce and Councillor Staplehurst volunteered to represent the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee which was agreed by Members.

RESOLVED:

- a) That request is made to the remaining HFRA committees for up to two members from each to join the Risk and Planning Group.
- b) That once additional Members were confirmed, a meeting will be convened beginning by reviewing the Terms of Reference for the group.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

5 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for this meeting.

6 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT

The Chief Officer provided the latest quarterly performance monitoring based on the 2012/13 year end outturn (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The total number of fires attended had reduced by 34% compared to the previous year. It was noted that the number of false alarms involving malicious calls had dropped significantly. A steady decrease in the number of false alarm visits (accidental) to businesses was attributed to the Service's priority planning to improve incidents in this category.

An increase in Co-Responder calls (incidents attended in agreement with the Ambulance Service to assist them) was noted.

The target for the number of fire casualties had been based on limited historical benchmarking data. Members approved the proposed revised target shown in recommendation 2.2. The overall reduction in the number of casualties since 2009/10 was noted and also the reduction in accidental fires.

Members noted the high performance of the Service in the reduction of deliberate primary fires and its top ranking position with its group of comparable fire services. HFRS employed an Arson Task Force in partnership with the Police to help reduce repeat offenders and minimise incidents. Good performance was noted by Members for the reduction in the number of deliberate secondary fires including the success of Environmental Visual Audits which identified vulnerable locations and reduced the risk of incidents.

Service response time performance was slightly under target and would be considered further within one of the Service's priorities for 2013/14. Variables affecting response times were discussed. The average response time for critical incidents was confirmed as 7.55 minutes.

Members congratulated the Service on its performance across the target categories as outlined in the Activity Report.

RESOLVED:

- a) That HFRS would seek further information about Co-Responder Calls, where possible, in terms of attendance outcomes and area breakdowns to compare the use of the service between rural and urban areas.
- b) That in the category of Deliberate Primary Fires, HFRS would provide a comparison of the number of incidents within the overall

similar service grouping without Hampshire data included.

- c) That in the category of Fires in non-domestic properties, HFRS would provide a breakdown between Hampshire schools and those within Southampton and Portsmouth City Council areas.
- d) HFRS would provide a breakdown of area response times to compare rural and urban location.
- e) The Committee endorsed the performance reports and the strategies to meet the targets.
- f) The Committee supported the revision of the current year's target for the number of fire related injuries from 58 to 74.

7 PROTECTION PERFORMANCE INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY OF HAMPSHIRE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer on protection performance information (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

There was now a national requirement in relation to Enforcement Priorities (The Rogers Review) for publication of key protection performance information by local service providers to demonstrate accountability. This would also allow national benchmarking and a wider review of targeting resources.

Members noted the good performance of the Service in each of the protection activities shown in the report.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the contents of the report and supported the publication of information.

8 EFFICIENT AND FLEXIBLE CREWING STAGE TWO EVALUATION REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer relating to the Service's resourcing efficiency project (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

An update was provided regarding the aims of the project and outcomes in establishing efficiencies within the Service. Project activity had included a review of service locations and use of resources. Staff numbers had been successfully reduced whilst still meeting response requirements. Efficiency targets had been achieved within two years of the four year project.

Members enquired about creation of the staff bank for resource shortages including use of fixed-term contracts for known staff absences. It was confirmed that this had worked well for the Service. In terms of current trial

sites at Fareham and Gosport, response requirements were still being achieved but flexible staffing arrangements were improving efficiencies.

Members noted the contents of the report and the achievements of the project in achieving efficiencies.

RESOLVED:

The Committee acknowledged that Stage 2 of the EFC project had been successfully completed, including the required financial savings, and formally closed by the EFC project board.

9 REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer relating to a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The Director introduced the proposed revised terms of reference which incorporated the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework as well as changes in elements of HFRA monitoring of the Service. It was proposed that the scrutiny element of HFRA be reviewed by Members to establish an agreed programme going forward.

It was proposed 2-3 members undertake scrutiny activity for the Committee and convene to formulate a draft scrutiny plan with an initial focus on the recent efficiency report by Sir Ken Knight.

HFRS would provide a summary of the efficiency report to the full HFRA meeting in September with a suggested scrutiny approach for all members to review.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Councillor Pearce, Councillor Simpson and Councillor Chadd would form the scrutiny group (chaired by Councillor Pearce) and meet to review the draft plan in due course.
- b) That HFRS would report back to the HFRA and Committee with the proposed approach to scrutiny.
- c) The Committee agreed to developing its approach to scrutiny.

That it be a RECOMMENDATION to the Authority:

- d) That the changes to the Committee terms of reference be approved.