

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee

Item: 7

2 July 2013

Protection performance information to the community of Hampshire

Report by the Chief Officer

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1 Summary

- 1.1 Fire and rescue services are increasingly focusing on outcome-based performance indicators. Transparency is a key element in being accountable and reporting to our local communities. The requirement to provide information to the community in an easy to understand, transparent manner is also reflected in Chapter 2 of the Fire and rescue national framework for England 2012.
- 1.2 The Better Regulation Delivery Office [formerly Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO)] hosted a series of seminars for local authority and national regulators to consider how to report to local communities the outcomes of its activities that it considered were a national priority. A background to these national priorities or Priority Regulatory Outcomes is given below.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to note the contents of this report and support the publication of information.

3 Background to the Priority Regulatory Outcomes

- 3.1 In April 2007 the findings of a review conducted by Peter Rogers (The Rogers Review) were published by the Government. This gave rise to six National Enforcement Priorities, which local authorities should have due regard to when allocating their resources. These Priorities focused on air quality; alcohol licensing; hygiene of food businesses; improving health in the workplace; fair trading and animal health and public health. None of these priorities had a direct impact on fire and rescue services.
- 3.2 The six priorities were reviewed in 2011 by an expert panel of regulators, including representatives from the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and a report, "Priority Regulatory Outcomes – A New Approach to Refreshing the National Enforcement Priorities for Local Authority Regulatory Services", concluded that a broader approach to regulatory outcomes, reflecting the concerns of local citizens and business, should be adopted. The report recommended that the following Priority Regulatory Outcomes (PROs) should be considered by Local Authority Regulatory Services when allocating their resources:

- Support economic growth, especially in small businesses, by ensuring a fair, responsible, and competitive trading environment.
- Protect the environment for future generations including tackling the threats and impacts of climate change.
- Improve quality of life and wellbeing by ensuring clean and safe neighbourhoods.
- Help people to live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health.
- Ensure a safe, healthy, and sustainable food chain for the benefits of consumers and the rural economy.

3.3 As a result of input from CFOA representatives from Hampshire and Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Services, the contribution that the fire and rescue services make through their prevention and protection activities has now been recognised. The contribution relates to two of the above outcomes – ‘support economic growth’ and ‘help people to live healthier lives’, in addition to contributing to the safety of the public and our firefighters.

4 Dashboard Indicators

4.1 Representatives from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, worked on behalf of CFOA to develop a performance information tool to promote the provision of information to local communities which supports the Priority Regulatory Outcomes and contributes to both public and firefighter safety.

4.2 The information provided includes the investment in resources to deliver our activities, the outputs (in the form of interactions with business), and the outcomes achieved in reducing fire deaths and injuries, thereby making Hampshire Safer. We have already published information on our website relating to the years 2007/08 to 2010/11. Appendix A is an example of information that will be published covering the years 2010/11 to 2012/13.

4.3 The number of contacts made, and consultations responded to, have been divided by the number of rate-paying non-domestic properties recorded by CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants. This was done so that benchmarking could be taken with other services, and that some context could be given to the numbers. This reason for using CIPFA is that it is the only available consistent data from one source, which each Service can access at the present time. However, it does not strictly describe the population of properties that fall within the work of the Protection team.

5 Supporting our corporate aims and objectives

5.1 The performance information will help us become a stronger organisation, which makes life safer, by enabling us to evaluate the effectiveness of our activities. It will also provide the information to the community which will help engagement and challenge to shape our services.

6 Resource implications

6.1 Human Resources

Annual data input by the Performance Review Team

6.2 Physical Resources

None

6.3 Information and Communications Technology Resources

No additional requirement.

6.4 Financial Implications

None

7 People Impact Assessment

7.1 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

8 Consultation

8.1 CFOA consulted nationally on this product and it is expected to be adopted by a large number of fire and rescue services to enable benchmark comparisons to be made. It is expected that it will be developed further in the coming years.

9 Background papers

The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

National enforcement priorities for local authority regulatory services, Peter Rogers, March 2007

Priority Regulatory Outcomes - A New Approach to Refreshing the National Enforcement Priorities for Local Authority Regulatory Services, Local Better Regulation Office, 2011

Fire and rescue national framework for England 2012.

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.