

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 19 May 2015

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Keith Chapman (Chairman); Ann Briggs, Adam Carew; Jane Frankum; Frank Pearce (Vice Chairman); David Simpson; Mark Staplehurst and John Wall

**51 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Adam Carew and Mark Staplehurst.

**52 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.

**53 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the previous Committee held on 10 February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

**54 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

**55 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations received for this meeting.

**56 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer, which provided

an update on how the Authority performed against its key performance indicators in the financial year ending 31 March 2015 and from the start of the year (April 2014) to the end of quarter four (March 2015) (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The report was summarised and Members taken through appendix A to the report. In particular, it was highlighted that there had been a continual reduction in primary and secondary fires. On page 4 of the appendix, it was also noted that special service calls had reduced significantly compared to the same period in the previous year, with less extreme weather contributing to this decline.

Levels of co-responder activity were explained to Members. It was noted that there had been an increase in co-responder calls which corresponded with an increase in the number of co-responder fire stations, and the benefits of this were highlighted. It was heard that Hampshire led the way nationally with this scheme, with 40% of all national co-responder calls, and Members congratulated the performance of all co-responder staff in Hampshire.

It was noted that the number of fire casualties and fire fatalities remained low, with the number of fire casualties in Hampshire remaining below the national average. Members heard that the Service ensured advice and information relating to fire risks was made available to all and at the request of Members, it was agreed to re-circulate to the Committee a leaflet regarding reducing fire risks in the home.

In response to Member queries relating to fire alarms caused by Automatic Fire Detectors in non-domestic properties, it was agreed that further detail would be provided in future reports detailing Family Group 4 comparative data.

Members' questions relating to critical and non-critical responses were addressed. It was heard that since 1 April 2015, critical responses would be linked to the automatic vehicle location rather than the station location. Members noted that it was predicted that this in turn should improve the current 67% critical response rate figure in the future.

RESOLVED:

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

## **57 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RISK REVIEW PROJECT**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer in relation to the updated governance arrangements and timeline for the Risk Review project (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The management of the project and the project timelines were outlined, and it was noted that staff engagement regarding the proposals was taking place.

In relation to the governance timeline, it was confirmed that a further paper regarding performance management and risk review would be brought to the Committee in July 2015, before being presented to the Full Authority in September for formal consultation. Members heard that the process would culminate with the Full Authority deciding on final decision proposals in February 2016, before implementation in April 2016.

Members discussed the merits of holding an informal briefing for all Fire Authority Members to provide background on proposals before considering the decision to initiate formal consultation in September 2015. The Committee agreed to seek the agreement of the Chairman of the Fire Authority for an informal briefing to take place at an appropriate time.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee agreed the updated governance arrangements and timeline.
- b) The Committee agreed the timeline for further reports to the Committee.

## **58 SICKNESS ABSENCE**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer, regarding the current sickness absence figures (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members noted that sickness absence figures within the service were average when compared to the rest of the country. Under the Reasons for Absence on page 6, it was noted that more detail would be provided in 4.2 regarding absence reasons before the paper was considered by the HR Committee.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee acknowledge the information and action plan in line with its role to monitor the Service's performance against its priorities and key targets.
- b) The Committee understands that the paper will be considered by the HR Committee to own the issue and make any final decisions related to the action plan and monitoring its progress.