

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 16 April, 2013

PRESENT:

Councillors: K. Chapman (Chairman), I. Beagley, S. Darragh, A. Evans, R. Kimber, T. Knight, E. Neal

119 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Simpson, Councillor M. Cooper and Councillor J. Frankum.

120 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.

121 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 November 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

122 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished those leaving the Authority all the best for the future and all Members were thanked for their hard work and dedication over the past few years.

123 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for this meeting.

124 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND OUR APPROACH TO RISK - PRESENTATION

The Committee considered the presentation of the Chief Officer regarding the Authority's future approach to risk.

A progress update of the Service's thinking and development of its risk plans and methodology was provided. This included reference to the integration of the Strategic Assessment and the range of tools and concepts in use or under development. The Service continues to develop its

Integrated Risk Management approach so that there is one clear service strategy that can be clearly conveyed to staff and the public.

In relation to Strategic Assessment, the mapping of risk and the identification of higher risk groups, the increase in data sharing and intelligence analysis with partner agencies was discussed. It was agreed that, to identify risk and vulnerability, assessments and analysis should be evidenced as far as possible and practicable in support of strategic decision making and targeting of resources.

The Service wished to convey its strategic risk plans to the public to build confidence, assurance and gauge public expectations. It was agreed that Members could also take an active role. Members asked about availability of reporting to see the Service's current public engagement activity during the year. It was confirmed that this was available via the HFRS Activity Report, which is reported to each full Authority meeting.

The Committee suggested use of parish council AGM's for nominated officers and Members to attend and speak with local communities. The involvement of retired officers and voluntary staff was suggested to save officer time. Use of existing social media was also discussed as a way of communicating the Service's and Authority's strategic risk management plans.

Action:

The Committee would agree a working group of officers and Members at the next meeting, to plan public communications in relation to the Service's risk strategy.

125 OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding the imminent operational assessment and the Service's own self-assessment.

Members noted a report amendment since publication of Item 7, due to a subsequent recent upgrade of one of the categories. Section 3.4 of the report, 'Self Assessment Results' category number three 'Protection' had been upgraded to 'Advanced' rather than 'Established'. The Service had identified five priority areas for the Peer Challenge group during their visit.

The Peer Challenge was to take place between 29 April and 2 May and it was noted that previously nominated Members would represent the Authority in support of the Service's assessment.

Action: It was confirmed that Councillor Chapman and Councillor Darragh would attend Fire Headquarters during the week commencing 29 April and represent the Authority as part of the Peer Challenge interview assessments.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Agreed and endorsed the Service's self-assessment results.
- b) Endorsed the five priority areas for peer challenge.

126 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) highlighting the latest progress against Service performance targets from April 2012 to the end of quarter three.

The total number of fires attended between April and December 2012 had reduced by 44% compared to the same period the previous year, due in part to a significant decrease in secondary fires. Accidental dwelling fires performance was on course to meet its year-end target. The number of casualties incurred from primary fires was currently above target.. Officers would be reviewing the target for 2013/14. Performance of the reduction of primary and secondary deliberate fires had achieved target in quarter three and represented less than half the number of incidents than in the previous year.

Staff sickness was slightly above target and the previous year. Members enquired about Human Resources monitoring of trends and long-term sickness. It was confirmed that this was assessed by the Department and Senior Management Team. Occupational Health and counselling services were provided where appropriate. It was noted that work related injury or sickness was differentiated from non work related sickness.

Members congratulated the Service for its performance across the range of targets for the reporting period.

RESOLVED:

The Committee endorsed each of the performance reports and strategies as shown.

127 PREVENTABLE INCIDENTS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) which provided an update on the Service's 'Preventable Incidents' Strategy.

Members noted good performance for the 68% reduction in automatic fire alarms incidents since 2005. Members enquired about new smoke/heat detection technology developments. It was noted trials were underway nationally, which would significantly reduce the number of false alarms for services. Reduction in the number of incidents locally was attributable to effective engagement and education with businesses.

Looking at the number of fires involving acetylene cylinders, Members noted the Service's successful assessment and removal strategy for higher

risk premises and the positive impact this had on reducing risk of incidents.

It was confirmed that the number of non-emergency lift incidents had initially shown an increase from 2002 due to an increase in the number in use as well as issues related to lift age and condition. The reduction in the number of incidents for the year and the 39% reduction since 2007 was noted by the Committee.

Members noted the excellent performance of the Service in relation to preventable incidents and congratulated the officers on their work.

RESOLVED:

The Committee supported the progress made and noted the achievement of the Service's corporate objectives relating to preventable incidents.

128 UPDATE TO THE PREVIOUS CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) providing an update on progress against the previous corporate objectives designed to address risks identified within the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

Performance against the objectives was noted by the Committee. It was confirmed that as agreed during last year, the Service was moving away from the current three-year annually refreshed plan, and towards a five year plan from April 2013.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the sign-off and closure of the objectives and acknowledged the progress made on objectives that were continuing (detailed in Appendix A).