

PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the
PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
held in the Fire Authority Rooms, Fire and
Rescue Service Headquarters, Nissan
Way, Barmston Mere, Sunderland on
MONDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2009 at
10.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor T. Wright in the Chair

Councillors M. Forbes, Jordan and Renton.

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of
Councillor Bollands.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Minutes

9. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2008
(circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Performance Report of the 2008/09 Corporate Targets Quarter 2nd April – September 2008/09

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a joint report (copy circulated) providing the Quarter 2 performance of the Authority against the targets for 2008/09.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer explained that although the data was only provided up to September 2008, all figures had been validated.

Mr. C. Maude proceeded to give a thorough outline of the report with Members highlighting the following issues:-

BV1431: Number of deaths from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population.

The number of deaths at 0.64 was slightly above target (0.47) and represented 7 fatalities in 2008/09. Although this figure was deemed to be low, prevention and education programmes would hope to reduce this number further.

BV209i: Percentage of fires attended in dwellings where a smoke alarm had activated.

The forecasted figure was 50.9% (422 fires). This representing a decrease on the end of year figure reported 2007/08 (737). As a result of this, the Authority was set to miss the target of 55.1% by 42%. Members were advised that due to the reduction in the overall number of fires attended, it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain and improve on previous performance but due to a more sophisticated approach to targeting home safety checks, the Authority expected to see an increase in performance over time.

BV209ii: Percentage of fires attended in dwellings where a smoke alarm was fitted but did not activate.

Councillor Renton asked for reasons why the alarms in question did not activate and was informed by Chief Fire Officer Bathgate that this was often as a result of the batteries being removed. Due to this, anti-tamper smoke alarms were now being installed.

BV206iii: Number of deliberate secondary fires (excluding deliberate secondary fires in vehicles) per 10,000 population.

The forecasted end of year figure was 61.2 (6659 fires). This being a decrease of 16% (1236 fires) on the 2007/08 end of year figure of 72.6 (7895 fires). As a result, the Authority was set to exceed its target of 14%.

Councillor Renton asked about the sale of matches and lighters and the Chief Fire Officer advised that work was ongoing with Fraser Kemp lobbying to change the age restriction to 18 years for both matches and lighters. Members agreed that this should also help realise a reduction in the number of deliberate fires.

Councillor Forbes asked what happened to the individuals who we caught starting a deliberate fire and was advised that the number of people actually caught was extremely low and that police often view this as low level activity.

BV146i: Number of malicious false alarm calls not attended per 1,000 population.

The forecasted end of year figures was 0.18 (185 calls). This being a decrease of 11% on the 2007/08 end of year figures of 0.2 (207 calls). As a result the Authority was set to achieve its target of 0.18 (198 calls) false alarms not attended.

Councillor Forbes asked whether the implementation of the RCC was likely to affect this number as control room staff would lack local knowledge of the area, and was advised that this should not be the case as the operators were trained to detect hoax calls where possible, and that local knowledge was rarely relied upon.

Members also questioned whether statutory powers were in place and the Chief Fire Officer advised that no such powers were available at the present time.

BV12b: Number of working days/shifts lost to sickness absence by our staff.

The forecasted end of year figure was 8.29. This represented a forecasted increase of just under ½ a day/shift compared to 2007/08. As a result, the Authority was forecast to exceed its target of 7.91 days/shifts. In order to improve on performance, the Authority intended to further implement the Absence Management Policy with particular focus on non rider and corporate staff to work towards a total of 6.5 days.

Before the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman thanked Mr. Maude for his excellent report and explanation of fundings.

Having given consideration to the report, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Signed) T. WRIGHT,
Chairman.