

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, 28 APRIL,
2008 at 11.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Bollands and Cooney.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Huscroft and Renton.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Minutes

15. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February, 2008 (circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Monitoring of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Improvement Plan

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a joint report (circulated) updating Members regarding the progress made against the CPA Improvement Plan over the previous twelve months and highlighted any improvement actions.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the report to the Committee highlighting key areas of development. In addition he also outlined that further to the Use of Resources and Direction of Travel audits during 2007 a further three improvement actions have been appended to the plan . These are:

- Further develop asset management by completing the current round of stock condition surveys and assess to Authority's scope to develop whole life costings;
- Review and implement initiatives that focus upon reducing the number of accidental dwelling fires to improve performance within this indicator.; and
- Demonstrate efficiency savings through application of the Value for Money Review Framework.

Following a query from the Chairman, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Hindmarch confirmed that the Authority would continue working towards reaching Level 5 of the Equality Standard for Local Government and were aiming to do so over the next two years.

Having given consideration to the report, it was:-

16. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Improvement Plan Progress reports be noted; and
- (ii) further Improvement Plan Progress reports be received on a regular basis.

Performance Report of the 2007/08 Corporate Targets Quarter 3 April-December 2007

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a report (circulated) providing the Quarter 3 performance of the Authority against the targets for 2007/8.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. C. Maude, Performance and Information Officer, proceeded to outline the report to members, with the following key issues being highlighted:-

BV142(iii) – Number of accidental fires in dwellings per 10,000 dwellings.

Members were advised that there was a decrease of 8.5% on the 2006/7 end of year figure and the Authority were on course to achieve the target for 2007/8. This improvement was expected to continue in the months ahead following the Authority's decision to accept the Audit Commission's recommendations concerning this matter as set out in their 'Data Quality' Audit report.

BV207: Number of fires in non-domestic premises per 1,000 non-domestic premises.

The Committee were advised that although there was a decrease of 7% on 2006/7 end of year figure, due to the challenging target subsequently set out for 2007/8 the Authority was set to miss target by 3%. Chief Fire Officer Bathgate brought the attention of the Committee to the trend line graph contained in Appendix B of the report and advised that the graph illustrated the substantial reduction in the number of these fires over the past two years. He stated that this provided a positive overall picture.

BV15a: Percentage of wholetime fire fighters ill health retirements as a % of the total workforce.

BV16b: Percentage of control and non-uniformed ill health retirements as a % of the total workforce.

The Chairman queried whether the Authority compared these figures with other FRAs. Mr. Maude responded that the Authority did compare against other Metropolitan Authorities. Members were also advised that ill health matters were always actively managed and early retirement due to ill health would only be exercised in specific circumstances and always under independent medical advice.

Councillor Bollands advised that it would be helpful to compare a sample of all the indicators against other Metropolitan Authorities. He stated that this would assist the Committee in monitoring the Authority's performance. CFO Bathgate responded that the figures were compared on an annual basis via information received from CLG. He further stated that there was an issue as to how to get this information on a more regular basis. He advised the Committee that he would ensure that consideration would be given to how more frequent comparative reports could be provided in the future

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

17. RESOLVED that the performance report be noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their support and attendance throughout the municipal year.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.