

ITEM NO 3

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 27 APRIL 2009 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor T. Wright in the Chair

Councillors M. Forbes, N. Forbes and Renton.

Apologies for Absence

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

Declarations of Interest

None.

Minutes

11. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2009
(circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Update

Page 2, BV206iii: Number of deliberate secondary fires (excluding deliberate
secondary fires in vehicles) per 10,000 population.

The Chief Fire Officer referred to the issue of banning the sale of matches and lighters to children and indicated that the CLG were considering a pilot programme that would introduce a voluntary ban on sales within geographically defined areas in order to see if it had any impact on the prevalence of secondary fires.

Performance Report of the 2008/09 Corporate Targets, Quarter 3 April – December 2008/09

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a joint report (copy circulated) providing the Quarter 3 performance of the Authority against the targets for 2008/09.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. C. Maude proceeded to outline the report to Members with the following key issues being highlighted:-

BV143i: Number of deaths from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population.

The end of the year forecasted figure was 0.46. The figure forecasted represented 5 fatalities from such incidents in 2008/09. Through ongoing Prevention and Education programmes together with the targeted delivery of Home Safety Checks it was hoped to maintain the figure. It was noted that there were only 4 deaths to date in 2008/09.

BV209iii: Percentage of fires attended in dwellings where no smoke alarm was fitted.

The forecasted end of year figure was 45.8% (388 fires). Through the continued delivery of Home Safety Checks and press advertisements, the Authority hoped to reduce this figure in the future.

Councillor Wright asked if fires in empty houses where no smoke alarms were fitted could distort the performance indicator.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that fires in derelict properties should be recorded as deliberate secondary fires, but it was possible for them to be recorded differently and this could have an impact on the performance indicator.

Councillor N. Forbes asked if the Fire Authority collected information on tenure of property – private/public, rented or owner occupier, in order to target fire prevention measures to certain groups. Mr. Maude undertook to investigate if the system could capture this information.

BV149i: Number of false alarms due to automatic fire detection in non-domestic properties, per 1,000 properties

The forecasted end of year figure was 87.6% (2731) and the Authority was set to be within variance of its target of 86.5% (2697).

Number of those properties in BV149i with more than 1 attendance by the Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Renton expressed concern that 406 properties had more than one attendance by the service.

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the hospitals continued to be the key challenge although there had been progress made in reducing the overall numbers of false alarms received from them.

In reply to a question from Councillor N. Forbes, it was confirmed that of the 406 properties where there was more than one call out, the properties other than hospitals were typically businesses factories and office premises.

BV11c: Percentage of the top 5% of Authority earners with a disability.

Councillor Wright expressed concern that the end of year figure was 1.29%, representing one member of staff and that the Authority was not forecast to improve upon its performance reported at the end of 2007/08. He asked what action could be taken to improve this.

Joy Brindle, Assistant Chief Officer explained that the job advertisements all promoted the Authority as an equal opportunity employer and encouraged applications from disabled individuals.

Councillor Renton pointed out that some employees did not wish to be identified as disabled. The Chief Fire Officer acknowledged that this was a sensitive issue but the performance indicators were set nationally and it was necessary to report against them.

Mr. Maude referred to the overall BVPI Performance Survey and reported that 62.1% of BVPIs were set to achieve target and the number of BVPIs set to beat last years performance was 69%.

Councillor N. Forbes referred to the agreed amalgamation of the Policy Advisory Committee and Performance Review Committee and suggested that the new Committee should make sure that the performance indicators targets were reflected in the forward service reviews and forward plans.

Mr. Maude reported that the Authority intended to change the format for performance indicator reports, analyse where improvements were needed and that the significant information would be prioritised.

12. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

District Plans 2009/2010

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a joint report (copy circulated) on the process undertaken to further develop the District Plans for 2009/2010 and to incorporate within them the existing Station Plans.

A Single District Plan would be produced for each of the five Districts. Each District had also been encouraged to highlight additional National Indicators in their plan and additional Local Indicators which had been identified as a priority at District level.

A meeting with the District Managers was planned for Friday 1 May 2009 to discuss the issues that had started to emerge.

An example of the Newcastle District Plan had been circulated as an Appendix to the report which had included the following indicators:-

NI41 Increased numbers of vulnerable people achieving independent living.

NI111 First time entrants into the youth justice system aged 10-17.

NI195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness.

There was also a section on how the District would deliver on priorities and how Councillors would be able to scrutinise local performance.

Councillor Wright hoped that under the Local Area Agreement, Members could target local police and fire stations for improved information and be encouraged to contact District Managers. Joy Brindle confirmed that details of the District Managers would be included in the Plans.

Councillor N. Forbes noted that it would be beneficial for the Local Area Agreements at District level to feed into the corporate plans for the Fire Authority and asked that Councillors who represented the Districts on the Fire Authority be included in the discussions. He noted that the Fire and Rescue Service could play an important social role in bringing people together to bring down barriers.

13. RESOLVED that the report be endorsed.

(Signed) T. WRIGHT,
Chairman.