

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, 23 JUNE,
2008 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor Cooney in the Chair

Councillors Bollands and Jordan.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

1. RESOLVED that Councillor Cooney be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wright.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Minutes

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April, 2008 (circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

District Plans 2008/09

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining the contents of the new Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service District Plans.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. C. Maude, Performance and Information Officer, outlined the report to Members, advising that plans had been produced covering each of the five Local Authorities. He reported that there was a requirement to measure performance and provide more accountability within the Districts.

Mr. Maude highlighted page 11 of the attached Sunderland District Plan, advising Members that ward level data was provided in a colour coded map. He stated that it was hoped that these plans would provide more information for Members to relay to their own Authorities/constituents.

Councillor Bolland stated that these Plans were an important document and stated that he would be pleased to see the Gateshead Plans go to the Area Forums for their consideration. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Hindmarch stated that he would make the plans available for each of the Local Authorities to do this.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) the production of the District Plans be endorsed.

Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) 2008/09

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a report (copy circulated) containing the Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) for 2008/2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Hindmarch reported to the Committee that this was the last year the Authority were required to produce the BVPP. He stated that the Authority proposed to still collect the data as it gave a good indicator of how the Authority were performing.

Mr. Maude highlighted the key areas of the report to Members stating that in terms of performance there had been good improvements. He guided the Committee to pages 12 and 13 of the document which compared the Authority's performance against that of other Metropolitan FRA's. Members were advised that the Authority's performance was strong, second only to London, on the percentage of best performance BVPI's 2007/8.

With reference to the performance of the Metropolitan Authorities, Councillor Bolland stated that it was disappointing that most were performing below targets in the equal opportunities categories. Mr. Hindmarch responded that although there was clearly work to do, Fire and Rescue Authorities had improved their performance in terms of managing bullying and harassment at work. He stated that this did show that things were moving forward in this area and would continue to do so.

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

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the BVPP be noted; and
- (ii) the receipt of regular BVPP progress reports in 2008/2009 be agreed.

Final Performance Outturn Report

The Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority, the Finance Officer and the Personnel Advisor submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the final performance outturn for the 2007/2008 corporate targets.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Maude advised that this report was the final one for the 2007/2008 financial year and provided clear information in respect of the Authority's performance across the whole year measured against the corporate targets that were set. He went on to highlight some of the key areas for the consideration of the Committee.

Members were advised that the number of injuries from accidental fires in dwellings had reduced by 23% on the 2006/7 figure. Mr Maude advised that this indicator remained a key measure of the success of the Authority's Community Safety messages and demonstrated the value of the community education programme.

In terms of deliberate fires, Members were advised that the Authority were performing well in all the categories and had achieved all of the targets.

Mr Maude advised that BV149i: Number of false alarms due to automatic detection in non domestic properties; had decreased by 9% and as a result the Authority had exceeded target. Members were advised that the reduction could be attributed to the revised measurement criteria, developments within the Management Information System and more effective management of such incidents.

Having considered the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the contents of the performance report be noted.

Having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance, the Chairman then closed the meeting.

(Signed) T. COONEY,
Chairman.