

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Item 3 (ii)

Minutes of the meeting of the POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE held in the Fire Authority Rooms, Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Nissan Way, Barmston Mere, Sunderland on MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018 at 10.30 am

Present:

Councillor Forbes in the Chair.

Councillors Duggan, Harrison, Perry and Taylor.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

6. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee held on 9 July 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Quarter Two Performance Report 2018/2019

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Manager and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to provide the Committee with information relating to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's (TWFRS) performance for Quarter Two 2018/2019.

The attention of Members was drawn to the following statistics within TWFRS:-

- During Q2, TWFRS received 16,192 emergency calls and attended 9,088 incidents, an increase of 9% (1328 emergency calls) and 1 incident compared to Q2 last year;
- In 57% (50) of injuries from all fires, first aid was given at scene or a precautionary check was recommended (LI05);
- Unfortunately, there had been 3 fire fatalities (LI02) in Q2. One in North Tyneside and two in Sunderland;
- Injuries from accidental dwelling fires had increased by 31.5% (5) when compared to Q2 2017/2018;
- A 10% (10) decrease in the number of injuries occurred from fires (LI05);
- 75% (18) of injuries from accidental dwelling fires the room of origin of the fire was the kitchen (LI03) with the main source of ignition being cooking;
- A 10% reduction (179) in deliberate refuse fires (LI18).

Members were advised that targeted intervention work was undertaken in 'hotspot' areas with CCTV cameras often being used which did realise a reduction in fly-tipping.

ACFO Robson advised Members that Newcastle City Council had instigated shared bins with surrounding gates and key fobs with the local housing companies to prevent youths gathering and setting fire to refuse bins. If this approach was successful, this initiative would be discussed with other local authorities.

The Chairman referred to the 11% increase in North Tyneside in deliberate refuse fires and commented that this was likely to be due to the fact that North Tyneside were the last local authority to implement fortnightly bin collections.

- A 4% (95) reduction in deliberate secondary fires (LI16);
- A 8% reduction in accidental dwelling fires;
- 40% (378) of primary fires had a property type of 'Road Vehicle', a reduction of 3% (11) (LI29);
- A reduction of 5% (54) in primary fires (LI29) in comparison to Q2 2017/2018;
- 56% (139) of accidental dwelling fires required no fire fighter action or were extinguished by small means (LI08);
- False alarms in domestic premises had decreased by 7% (100) and false alarms in non-domestic premises had increased by 7% (61).

The committee was advised that work was ongoing with local authorities to ensure adequate refurbishment and maintenance schedules were in place.

- 47% (602) of domestic AFA calls were due to cooking or burnt toast (LI23);
- With regards premises type of AFA, 22% were to an education building, 21% to hospitals/medical care, 39% to purpose built flats and 33% to sheltered housing.

Members were advised that TWFRS worked closely with hospitals and education providers in attempt to reduce the number of false alarms and the risk based attendance policy was currently being amended.

The Committee asked for further detail in relation to the number in education premises and was advised that a larger number of false alarms were seen in primary schools. ACFO Robson agreed to provide a breakdown of schools by local authority area and explained that a detailed piece of work was being undertaken which would be shared with Members.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The contents of the report be noted and endorsed; and
- (ii) Further reports be received as appropriate.

Improvement and Assessment Plan

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Manager and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to provide Members with an update on the progress made against the Assessment and Improvement Plan (Appendix A).

Members were advised that good progress had been made against the Improvement Plan. Since February 2018 the highlights and key updates were as follows:-

- In July 2018, the Service achieved a North East Better Health at Work Bronze Award.
- In August 2018, the Cyber Essentials accreditation was confirmed.
- In October 2018, the Service achieved a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Gold Award
- In October 2018, the Innovation Hub Pilot at Sierra Blue Watch held its initial review of ideas, attended by Cllr Curran
- The ELT/SLT Employee Survey 2017 visits had been completed. Findings had been compiled for further review and improvement actions taken.
- The review of Standing Orders and financial regulations to take account of organisational change had been completed.
- TWFRS had received confirmation that HMICFRS Discovery week would commence 10th December 2018 and was scheduled to run for one week. The Fieldwork would commence 4th February 2019 and would run for one week.
- The HMICFRS Staff Survey opened on the 15th October 2018 and would close on the 15th February 2019. To align to these timescales, TWFRS

would launch the TWFRS Employee Survey on the 4th February 2019 for a four-week period.

- There has been an increase in accreditation costs of the 'Inclusive Top 50 Employers Award' to £3000 per year (previously £1495). Based on Stonewall Workplace Equality Index being the priority focus for LGBTQ accreditation, and the increase in cost, TWFRS had withdrawn from the award.
- The Stonewall Workplace Equality Index annual membership had increased from £2000 to £2500 per year.

The Chairman commented that this was excellent activity and acknowledged the significance of the inspection programme.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) Further reports be received as appropriate.

(Signed) N FORBES
Chair