

Item 3 (iii)

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the POLICY
AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE held
via Microsoft Teams on MONDAY 6 JULY
2020 at 10.30 am

Present:

Councillor Forbes in the Chair.

Councillor Dodds, Duggan, Pickard and Samuels.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of the Chief Fire Officer and Elaine Waugh.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

ACFO Baines referred to the following amendments:

- i. a typing error on page 7, paragraph 4 (Q£) should read (Q3);
- ii. paragraph 5, 'one year settled' should read one year settlement; and
- iii.

11. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee held on 10 February 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the above amendments.

Pre-Alerting 12 Months Live

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Officer and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to provide

the Committee with an update of Pre-Alerting functionality and performance during the first 12 months since inception on 1 April 2019.

ACO McVay reminded Members' that the pre-alert was a cut down mobilisation message used to advise designated resources of a 'potential' incident within their vicinity. The pre-alert module gave early notification of possible incidents and resulted in quicker mobilisation and additional preparation time for crews.

Members were advised that the pilot was successful from a quantitative and qualitative data performance perspective and ELT agreed to implantation of Pre-Alerting as a business as usual way of working on 3 September 2019.

In terms of Pre-Alerting 12 months performance, in December 2019 it was demonstrated that Pre-Alerting had impacted positively on the time it took a resource to book 'mobile to incident' following mobilisation alert. A final data report on performance from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 presented the following results: the service had achieved 14 seconds quicker attendance during the day and 24 seconds quicker at night; Pre-Alerting is embedded and accepted as a business as usual way of working and Pre-Alerting functionality played a key role in achieving a quicker response to emergency incidents and would undoubtedly limit the escalation of an emergency incident and potentially save lives.

Councillor Samuels acknowledged the remarkable achievement and wondered if any other FRS were using Pre-Alert. AFC McVay replied that Greater Manchester and other services were using the system. In response to a further questions from Councillor Samuels, she explained that 30% of resources had been stood down.

12. RESOLVED that:

- (i) the contents of the report be acknowledged; and
- (ii) further reports be received as appropriate.

End of Year Performance Report

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Officer 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 performance for the End of Year 2019/2020.

Area Manager (AM) Phil Clark explained that the format of the presentation had been changed and welcomed feedback from Members. AM Phil Clark and AM David Leach drew the attention of Members to the following statistics within TWFRS:

- Unfortunately, there had been nine fire fatalities (LI02) from all fires, seven of which were as a result of an accidental dwelling fire (LI01);
- Injures from accidental dwelling fires (LI03) had decreased by 23% (11) when compared to 2018/19;

- 31% (11) injuries from accidental dwelling fires occurred in the bedroom with a further 31% (11) occurring in the kitchen (LI03);
- 42% (793) of primary fires had a property type of 'Road vehicle', an increase of 5% (38);
- 10% (499) reduction in deliberate secondary fires (LI16);
- False alarms in domestic premises (LI23) have increased by 3% (76) and false alarms in non-domestic premises have decreased by 9% (148);
- The average response time for the first appliance was 5 minutes 50 seconds, this compares to 6 minutes 12 seconds in 2018/19; and
- There were 33,484 HSCs delivered (26,597 by TWFRS and 6,887 by partners). This compares to 28,343 last year (24,645 by TWFRS and 3,698 by partners).

AM Phil Clark advised that of the 11 victims who went to hospital as a result of injuries from dwelling fires were aged between 41 and 52. Members noted that bedroom fires were usually smoking related and that tailored advice had been given to educate the victims and prevent future incidents. In terms of the three year trend, it was noted that deaths from all fires, including dwelling fires, had increased however injuries from all fires had reduced. AM David Leach referred to dwelling fires and outlined the proactive, targeted intervention and prevention work that had been undertaken tailored to the specific incident accordingly.

Members' attention was drawn to fire attendances noting in particular that 58% of accidental dwelling fires had required no firefighter action demonstrating the positive impact of community work when dealing with small fires. It was noted that the 10% reduction in deliberate secondary fires could be as a result of the hot summer.

AM Phil Clark highlighted the decline in false alarms to non domestic premises and reported that a decline in false alarms to education premises was anticipated upon completion of the work with schools. AM David Leach added that there had been an 88% reduction in false alarms to education premises during the hours of 0800 and 1600.

ACFO Peter Heath explained that he did not intend giving an overview of District Performance as this information was included in the report. He referred to the Chairman's request for a succinct report for deliberate secondary fires by ward and explained that it was a detailed data file which was distributed to Local Authorities.

Councillor Pickard enquired how the total number of incidents (recorded at time of call) (L132) were collated and AM Phil Clark agreed to look at the figures and feedback to Councillor Pickard.

Action: AM Phil Clark

The Chairman thanked AM Phil Clark and AM David Leach for the report. He added that the impact of Covid-19 on performance would be reported to the next meeting.

13. RESOLVED that:-

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

(Signed) N FORBES
Chair