

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

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 22 FEBRUARY
2016 at 10.30am

Present:

Councillor N. Forbes in the Chair

Councillors Lauchlan, Perry and Renton.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Harrison and Stockdale.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

9. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee held on 9 November 2015 (circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

End of Quarter 3 (October – December) Performance Report 2015/2016

The Chief Fire Officer, Chief Executive and Clerk to the Authority submitted a report providing an overview of the Authority's performance to the end of Quarter 3 (October – December) against the targets for 2015/2016.

Members were advised that based on Quarter 3 performance data, the Authority was continuing to improve in some key areas however, was not expected to meet the majority of the targets set for the current financial year. Based on a comparison with the same period 2014/15 the Authority had experienced:

- 28.4% fewer Non Domestic Automatic False Alarms Attended
- 26.8% fewer Injuries from Accidental Dwelling Fires

- 18.5% fewer Malicious False Alarms Attended
- 3.9% fewer Accidental Dwelling Fires; and
- 10.3% fewer Domestic Automatic False Alarms Attended.

The first three quarters of 2015/16 had also seen an increase in the following areas when compared with the same period last year:

- 13.2% more Special Services
- 9.6% more All Fire Calls Attended
- 7.64% more Primary Fires
- 7.55% more Deliberate Fires; and
- 5.3% more Deliberate Secondary Fires.

The attention of members was then drawn to the following information:

The service recorded 111 injuries from all fires up to the end of Quarter 3, which was a reduction of 66 injuries (37%) from the same period in the previous year, therefore the target of 207 injuries from all fires, was expected to be met. Of the 111 injuries from all fires, 55% of the victims were treated with first aid at the scene, 37% required hospital attendance with slight injuries and 8% required hospital attendance with severe injuries.

With regards to primary fires (LI29), as an increase of 90 incidents had been reported from the same period last year, risk based strategies and plans were a focus for the service.

The service attended 415 accidental dwelling fires, a reduction of 17 incidents from the previous year, although the target of 534 was unlikely to be met. As an increase had been seen in non-kitchen related incidents, further partnership work would be undertaken particularly in relation to home safety checks.

Up to the end of Quarter 3, TWFRS attended 2789 deliberate secondary fires, an increase of 141 incidents in comparison to the same period of the previous year. Work was therefore underway with partners to target anti-social behaviour, particularly with schools and the police.

With regards to the number of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms from non-domestic premises, a reduction of 558 incidents had been seen from the previous year. This being due to a change in policy, part way through Quarter 1.

10. RESOLVED that:

- (i) The contents of the report be noted and endorsed; and
- (ii) Approval be given to the publication of the Quarter 3 Performance Report.

National Fire Statistics 2014-2015

The Chief Fire Officer, Chief Executive and Clerk to the Authority submitted a report providing an overview of national fire statistics covering the period 2014-15.

ACFO Brindle delivered a presentation which advised the committee of the following:

- Tyne and Wear continued to receive disproportionate cuts in funding;
- Whilst the service was relatively high cost overall, it was low cost for a Metropolitan Authority (and total spend did not take account of population);
- When population is factored in, spend per 1,000 was relatively high however this was influenced by a low population;
- TWFRS had a high spend (per 1,000) on community safety, however some of the community safety outcomes were very good, for example the reduction in accidental dwelling fires was amongst the best in the country, showing good value for money;
- Earmarked reserves were still healthy however not the highest in the Country;
- Fires in Tyne and Wear had reduced by 14% over the last 14 years, however despite these excellent reductions, Metropolitan areas still had more fires than other parts of the Country;
- Primary Fires had reduced by 75.8% over the last 14 years and secondary fires 62.9%. 71.5% of all fires attended were secondary fires and this was often linked to anti-social behaviour;
- Numbers of fire deaths were thankfully low, however the target would always be zero;
- A good downward trend had been seen in Fire Injuries (Accidental Dwelling Fires) over the last 2 years; and that
- Over the last 13 years, Tyne and Wear had reduced fires in other buildings by over 73%. This being the second best in terms of performance across the Country.

11. RESOLVED that the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

(Signed) N. FORBES
Chairman

