

Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

4th November, 2013, at 12.30 pm
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Chambers (Chair);
Councillors Delaney, Hogarth, Tranter and Young.

Apologies: Councillors Eustace, Spence and Wright.

33/13 **An Analysis of Progress of Corporate Performance against
'The Plan' – Quarter One 2013/14**

The Committee noted an analysis of organisational performance against 'The Plan' for the first quarter of 2013/2014. It was reported that this was now the third year of the three year rolling targets and it should therefore be more evident if the Service was on track to meet its targets for operational and performance indicators.

Members noted that the commitment to a five minute attendance time for category one incidents and asked about its comparison with other fire and rescue authorities, particularly those who had extended their response times as a consequence of changes to their wider response model, e.g. Liverpool's time was 20 minutes. The Committee asked that details of the Response Time Project 'Seconds Do Count' should be reported to a Policy Planning Forum in order for the rationale of maintaining minimum response times to be understood.

The Committee congratulated the 20% reduction in the electricity used on stations (PI 22b). Members were informed that each station had an environmental action plan which included measures such as reminding personnel to turn off lights and equipment when not in use.

Scrutiny Committee
4th November, 2013

It was noted that the total number of injuries reported was slightly above the forecast, but that often there was an element of correlation which was dependent on the severity of the incident attended, e.g. the recycling plant incident in Smethwick.

Members noted that the average number of working days/shifts lost due to sickness for uniformed staff and all staff (PI 27 and 28), whilst still good, had fallen slightly against the performance/plan forecasts. The Director of Human Resources was asked to provide an analysis of sickness by grade to a future meeting of the Committee.

With regard to the performance indicators relating to actions to improve the safety of communities at risk from fire (PI 1, 2 and 3) it was suggested that the Committee receive a further report on whether the actions being taken by the Service were still appropriate. In response to a member's question it was reported that the figures shown only related to accidental fires and not those which were started intentionally. It was requested that an overview of the objectives relating to vulnerable people should also be received by the Committee.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director of Human Resources submit a report to the Scrutiny Committee on an analysis of sickness by grade;
- (2) that the Director Operations submit information to the Scrutiny Committee on whether the actions taken by the Service in relation to PI 1, 2 and 3 were still appropriate and on an overview of the objectives relating to vulnerable people;
- (3) that details of the Reaction and Attendance Time Project 'Seconds Count' be reported to a future Policy Planning Forum in order for the justification for the setting of longer reaction times by fire and rescue authorities could be explored.

Scrutiny Committee
4th November, 2013

34/13 **Operational Assessment Improvement Register – Progress Update**

The Committee noted progress made by the organisation to October, 2013 in addressing areas for consideration (afc) detailed in the Operational Assessment Improvement Register. Of the 12 items noted by the Committee in the last report in April, 2013, only 7 were still outstanding but were on target for completion.

Reference was made to the posts of Local Authority Liaison Officer and Vulnerable Persons Officer and how such the operation of such partnership officers had been completely redesigned. It was noted that members may not yet be aware of whose these officers were in their own local authorities for they were only appointed last month.

35/13 **Work Programme 2013/14**

The Committee noted its work programme for 2013/2014. It was requested that the work programme be updated by the Committee's decisions from the meeting in that a report on sickness absence be made to the meeting on 9th December, 2013 and that information on whether the actions taken by the Service in relation to PI 1, 2 and 3 were still appropriate and on an overview of the objectives relating to vulnerable people be included in the report on home safety checks scheduled for 20th January, 2014.

(Meeting ended at 1.12 pm)

Contact Officer: Rosemary Jones Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121 569 3896
