

Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

9th December, 2013 at 1.00 pm
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Chambers (Chair);
Councillor Spence (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Hogarth, Tranter and Young.

Apologies: Councillors Eustace and Wright.

36/13 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 21st October and 4th November, 2013 be approved as a correct record.

37/13 **An Analysis of Progress of Corporate Performance against 'The Plan' – Quarter Two 2013/2014**

Further to Minute No. 33/13, the Committee noted an analysis of organisational performance against 'The Plan' for the second quarter of 2013/2014.

The Committee noted details of performance against targets set out in 'The Plan' for the second quarter of 2012/13 in the following areas:-

- performance indicators;
- strategic objectives as outlined in 'The Plan';
- progress against programmes and projects;
- corporate risk.

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Members noted that the full year budget for smoke alarms and other supporting materials in 2013/2014 was £322,500. The actual expenditure at the end of September, 2013 was £117,300 which had resulted in an under-spend. However, it was advised that back invoicing was being carried out and a briefing note would be circulated assuring members that the allocated money would be spent.

The Committee raised concerns that the indicator figures provided with regard to arson had doubled since the previous quarter. It was felt that the increase in the arson figures would be based on a number of variables. A hotspot map of the districts would be circulated at the next meeting highlighting the distribution of arson attacks across the areas to identify any similarities or issues arising.

It was noted that there had been a 9% increase above the forecast in the total number of injuries reported (PI 19), but that these were mainly due to the two recent fires at recycling centres. Members also placed on record their personal best wishes to firefighter Tommy Sedgwick who had recently been injured.

The Committee was advised that the average number of working days/shifts lost due to sickness had increased by 13% compared to the same period last year (PI 27). Performance had deteriorated and had therefore not met the PI plan forecast. A further update would be provided at the next working group meeting.

With regard to the review of Continual Professional Development that had not been completed, the Chair requested that a briefing note be provided in relation to the proposal that a whole review of the Services approach was required.

Members were advised that the Road Casualty Reduction Team was working in partnership with Solihull Road Safety in a project called Community Speed Watch. This allowed West Midlands Fire Service volunteers to track offenders speeding on Solihull roads. A warning letter was sent to the offender that detailed if they were caught speeding in that area again they would be subject to a fine. The warning letter was sent to offenders travelling 38mph plus in a 30mph zone.

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Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director Operations submit a hotspot map of the districts highlighting the distribution of arson attacks across the areas, to identify any similarities or issues arising, to the Committee;
- (2) that further information be provided to the Committee detailing the review of services within the Continual Professional Development.

38/13 Work Programme 2013/14

The Committee noted its work programme for 2013/2014.

(Meeting ended at 2.10 pm following an adjournment
between 1.01 pm and 1.30 pm)