

## **Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee**

**16<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at 12.44 pm**  
**at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Tranter (Chair);  
Councillor Spence (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Collingswood, Hogarth, Phillips  
JP, Skinner and Young.

**Apology:** Councillor Delaney.

### **1/15 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 be approved as a correct record.

### **2/15 An Analysis of Progress of Quarterly Performance Against 'The Plan' – Quarter 3 2014/2015**

The Committee noted an analysis of performance against targets set out in 'The Plan' for the third quarter of 2014/15.

The third Corporate Performance Review meeting of 2014/2015 had taken place on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015.

The Committee noted the performance against:-

- Service delivery performance indicators (prevention, protection and response).
- People support services performance indicators.
- Safety, health and environment performance indicators.
- Strategic objectives as outlined in 'The Plan' and milestones due for completion within the third quarter of 2014/2015.

**Scrutiny Committee**  
**16<sup>th</sup> February, 2015**

In relation to the service delivery indicators, members noted that whilst performance had improved in relation to home safety checks, the target had still not been met. However, the direction of travel was good, which was a direct outcome of the work of this Committee.

There were several areas where performance had deteriorated and had not met targets in relation to people support service indicators and officers discussed possible reasons for this and proposals to address. The percentage of women fire fighters had improved but had still not met the target. It was noted that 22 fire fighters would be joining the service on transfer from Hereford and Worcestershire, which included three females. There were a number of interventions in place to encourage people from minority groups to join and progress through the organisation, including a race equality event that had taken place in January 2015 from which issues would be followed up. Sickness figures had risen, but the Director Service Delivery reported they were still some of the lowest in the country.

It was reported that performance was not meeting target in relation to reducing electricity use on Fire Authority premises. It was assumed that this was as a result of the drop in temperature, however, analysis was being done to determine the underlying cause. It was also felt that upgrade to boilers would show some benefits in the next quarter.

3/15     **Work Programme**

The Committee noted its work programme for the remainder of 2014/2015.

The Board received briefing notes on two proposed areas for review: Partnerships and Data Sharing.

Prevention was a key priority for the service but was in many ways reliant upon partnership working across a range of bodies. The on-going evaluation of the effectiveness of partnerships had identified that they remained problematic and it was suggested that the Committee undertake a review on the subject to identify the effectiveness of the current partnership approach; identify where lessons could be learned from other agencies and sectors; identify what improvements could be made to the current approach and suggest ways in which members could support partnership working.

**Scrutiny Committee**  
**16<sup>th</sup> February, 2015**

Linked to partnership working, data sharing was a critical success factor in identifying and engaging with vulnerable people. Particular difficulty had been encountered with the health sector with regards to the sharing of timely information, however, there were difficulties across a range of agencies primarily due to the different systems being used. The Committee was asked to consider carrying out a review, looking at the current level of effectiveness in relation to data sharing and to determine the organisation's needs in terms of data sharing and receiving.

It was anticipated that the reviews would run consecutively, starting with the partnerships review, and both would be complete by September. However, it was acknowledged that there would be some overlap as the subject matters were linked.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that a working group be established comprising Councillors Hogarth, Spence and Tranter to take forward a review of partnership working;
- (2) that the Committee conducts a review into the effectiveness of data sharing practices, upon the completion of the review of partnership working and that a working group be established when necessary to take the review forward.

(Meeting ended at 2.13pm,  
following an adjournment between 12.45 and 1.15pm)

Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121 569 3189
---