

Report of Head of Corporate Services

12. Quarters 1 and 2 Performance and Health and Safety Reports 2013-14

Purpose of report

1. This report is a summary of Quarters 1 and 2 performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2013-14 using the set of Key Performance Indicators agreed by the Senior Management Board together with a summary of Health and Safety incidents occurring in Quarter 1 and 2 2013-14.

Recommendations

That the Policy and Resources Committee note the following headlines taken from Appendix 1 relating to performance in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 and Appendix 2 relating to Health and Safety events in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14:

- i) the total number of incidents attended in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 is the lowest Quarters 1 and 2 total in the seven years that the current data set has been collected;***
- ii) the Service also attended the lowest Quarters 1 and 2 totals of Special Service (non-fire emergencies) and False alarms in the last seven years;***
- iii) although the number of Fires attended in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 have increased when compared to the same quarters last year, the total is still less than the average number of fires attended in Quarters 1 and 2 of the last five years; and***
- iv) the Service has also seen reductions in the number of injuries from primary fires and injuries from accidental dwelling fires with no injuries reported from accidental dwelling fires in May and June 2013. There were three fatalities from primary fires in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14.***

Introduction

2. The Service gathers data on a number of performance indicators based on operational activity and other areas of the Service and reports on these on a quarterly basis to the Senior Management Board (SMB) and this Committee. The Service also monitors the number of accidents and other health and safety related events involving firefighters at operational incidents and training exercises

Tolerance levels

3. Each individual Key Performance Indicator is tested against the tolerance levels expected for the Quarters 1 and 2 data. These are the levels between which performance is expected to fluctuate and are generally 10% above and below

the average levels for the specific indicators. The tolerance levels are represented in the accompanying appendices in graph format.

4. The only indicators out of tolerance at the end of Quarter 2 were the percentage of building fires attended by the first appliance within 10 minutes of the time of call and the second appliance attendance at building fire incidents within five minutes of the first appliance. These indicators are analysed in detail in Appendix 1 together with an overview of all operational activity, and an analysis of retained appliance availability that was proposed as being a standard item of future quarterly reporting.
5. Health and Safety events reported include the Lawrence recycling incident in June 2013 as a major occurrence in terms of managing health and safety at incidents.

Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 Performance

6. Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 saw a very slight reduction in total incidents compared to the same quarters last year. The numbers of special services and false alarms have reduced when compared with the same period last year but this has been negated by the increase in the number of fires attended in Quarters 1 and 2 2012-13.
7. Comparing the Quarters 1 and 2 data with the same quarters in previous years, the total number of incidents attended is the lowest Quarters 1 and 2 totals in the seven years in which the current set of data has been collected. This is also true of the total number of false alarms and special services attended. These reductions are due in part to better education and the Service's preventative activities.
8. The number of fires, whilst not the lowest Quarters 1 and 2 totals, are less than the previous 5 year average. The wet weather conditions experienced in Quarters 1 and 2 last year had led to the lowest number of fires recorded in Quarters 1 and 2 last year. The warmer drier conditions this year have led to an increase compared with the same quarters last year, but the overall trend is still downwards in direction.
9. The prevention of fires that result in injuries to members of public is a key part of the Service's Community Safety Strategy. The Service has seen reductions both in the number of injuries from primary (car and building) fires in general and the number of injuries specifically from accidental dwelling fires when compared to the same period last year, with no injuries reported at all from accidental dwelling fires in May and June 2013. There were three fatalities caused as a result of primary fires in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 compared with no fatalities in the same period last year.

Health and Safety Committee Update

10. The Health & Safety Committee (the Committee) is established to provide effective arrangements for the liaison and review of matters of a common interest in regards to health & safety (H&S), and to act as a forum for liaison on all matters relating to health & safety for key stakeholders and departments. The Committee provides the opportunity for the Service to discuss the general H&S matters on which it must consult the workforce with employee representatives.

11. The membership of the Committee has been recently reviewed and meetings are chaired by a Principal Officer (the Assistant Chief Fire Officer Service Support). It has the facility to task work to the Health & Safety Working Group (H&SWG), which sits beneath it and is chaired by the Area Commander Operations Support. The group meets as and when required but at least at a six monthly interval.
12. Total reported Health and Safety events were lower in Quarter 2 than in the preceding quarters with only one event with the potential to be serious recorded which did not lead to an injury.

Conclusion/Summary

13. Further details and analysis regarding the headlines in the recommendation and Quarters 1 and 2 performance and health and safety in general are included in the attached appendices. SMB will continue to receive reports based on the measures the Service is taking to stay within tolerance levels and where improvements are required and will report any action required together with details of future performance to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None at this stage
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The areas included link with the FRA plan and strategic objectives of the Service
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	H&S is the subject of appendix 2 attached to this report
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	No the report concerns operational activity and other areas of general performance but not from an equalities viewpoint

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 Performance Analysis
Appendix 2 Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 Health and Safety Report

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