



Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

Policy and Resources Committee

Thursday, 17 November 2016, 10:30

Minutes

Members Present: Mr R C Adams, Mr B A Baker, Mrs E Eyre BEM, Ms R E Jenkins, Mrs F M Oborski MBE, Mr R J Phillips, Mr D W Prodger MBE, Mr C B Taylor, Mr J W R Thomas, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall

Substitutes: none

Absent: none

Apologies for Absence: Mr A Fry, Mr J L V Kenyon

71 Confirmation of Minutes

Following a question from a Member about the progress of the Wyre Forest Hub, the Chief Fire Officer provided a brief update.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

72 2016/17 Budget Monitoring – 2nd Quarter

Members were informed of the current position on budgets and expenditure for 2016/17.

Members noted the revenue underspend of £1.056m which was due to increased savings levels from within the expenditure budgets as constraint continues to be exercised.

Members also noted the virements of the budget holder underspendings for a full condition survey of all Authority property to be conducted and for the provision of additional operational and IT equipment for operational personnel.

In relation to the capital budget for approved schemes, Members were made aware that £3.993m of the £7.610m budget had been committed by way of expenditure and orders. A Member queried the capital receipt for the sale of Bromsgrove Fire Station and was informed that the matter was being progressed.

Members were finally informed that an investment income target of £0.040m had been set for 2016/17.

RESOLVED that the Committee note:

- (i) the forecast revenue underspend of £1.056m (3.3%); and**
- (ii) the virement of £0.057m to operational equipment and £0.071m to a full property condition survey.**

73 2016-17 Performance Report: Quarter 1 and Quarter 2

Members were provided with a summary of the Service's Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 performance against a comprehensive set of Performance Indicators agreed by the Senior Management Board.

Members expressed their gratitude for the additional data that is now included in the report detailing the number of incidents per station ground and for each County.

There was particular discussion around the increase of false alarms. Members were informed that the Automatic Fire Alarm Policy was under review and work on-going to help reduce such incidents.

Members also raised the issue of co-responding with the Ambulance Service and were informed that talks are still on-going.

RESOLVED that Members note the following headlines drawn from Appendix 1 relating to performance in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2016-17:

- (i) A total of 3,603 incidents were attended in Q1 and Q2, an increase of 7.5% (251 incidents) over the same period in 2015-16, and 5.3% (180 incidents) higher than the average for the last five years.**
- (ii) The majority of the increase in Q1 and Q2 is accounted for by a rise in the numbers of Special Service and False Alarm incidents, while the number of Fire incidents was down:**
 - a. Special Services: there was an increase of 83 incidents over the**

six month period. This is predominantly accounted for by increases in the number of animal assistance incidents (22 incidents), and Other Special Services such as, lift rescues, spills and leaks (non-RTC), provision of advice and assisting other agencies (48 incidents).

b. False Alarms: there was an increase of 187 incidents over the six month period in all types of False Alarm incidents. This is mainly because of an increase in automatic activations of inbuilt fire alarms systems (144 incidents), of which 94 of these incidents were to known life risk type premises.

c. Fires: a decrease of 19 incidents for this period over the previous year is largely accounted for by a fall in the number of Secondary Fires (down by 42 incidents) with fewer outdoor fires in a wetter than usual late spring/early summer period.

(iii) The number of Fires, Special Service and False Alarm incidents has stayed relatively consistent over the last 5 years.

(iv) Overall Staff Sickness levels are 1.52 days lost per head, which remains within tolerance levels set (see para. 3 below) for Quarter 1 and 2 and below the five-year average of 1.63 days.

(v) The Service attended 62.5% (320 incidents) of Building Fires within 10 minutes in Q1 and Q2 compared with 57.0% in the same period in 2015-16. The average time for the first fire appliance attendance at all building fires was slightly over the ten minute target at ten minutes and seventeen seconds.

(vi) The overall availability of the first On-Call (Retained) fire appliance remains high at 91.1%, however this did decrease by 3.0% compared to the same period in 2015-16.

74 Health and Safety Committee Update

Members were provided with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee.

Particular reference was made to the vehicle mileage statistics which informed Members of the number of miles that are driven per year in relation to the number of accidents.

RESOLVED that the activities and items of significance from the

Health and Safety Committee be noted, in particular that:

(i) the Health and Safety performance information recorded during April 2016 to June 2016 (Quarter 1) shows a downward trend in comparison to the same quarter in 2015; and

(ii) the Service has been involved in a number of Health and Safety initiatives, including the implementation of a new risk assessment database to conclude the outstanding actions identified by the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) Regional Health and Safety Audit.

The Meeting ended at: 11:14

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman