

## **Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee**

1 October 2021 – At a virtual meeting of the Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee held at 10.30 am Virtual meeting with restricted public access.

Present: Cllr Boram (Chairman)

Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Charles, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Milne and Cllr Turley

Apologies were received from Cllr Richardson

Also in attendance: Cllr Crow

### **11. Declarations of Interest**

11.1 No declarations were made.

### **12. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee**

12.1 Resolved – that the Committee agrees the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2021.

### **13. End of June 2021 (Quarter 1) Quarterly Performance and Resources Report**

13.1 The Committee considered the end of June (Quarter 1) Quarterly Performance and Resources Report (copy appended to the signed minutes).

13.2 Summary of responses to members' questions and comments: -

- The increase in the cost for building the Horsham Fire Station and Training Centre might possibly cause minor changes to what is planned and delay completion slightly, but not significantly
- The target for fire safety inspections of business premises has risen from 936 to 1,750 to provide a stretch target which is 5% of the service's overall risk-based inspection programme and include the highest risk premises (such as care homes)
- The service uses the latest technology to locate accidents including the app 'What Three Words' and a system that provides photographs from the scene
- Referrals for safe and well visits to houses occupied by vulnerable people are often made by fire service partners such as social services
- The service works with the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership that breaks down accidents by type of vehicle – this could be made available to the Committee

13.3 Resolved – that the Committee is provided with further data relating to Key Performance Indicator 41 (killed and seriously injured casualties per billion vehicle miles) with a breakdown of the types of accidents.

## **14. Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Performance Report Quarter 1**

14.1 The Committee considered the Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Performance Report Quarter 1 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

14.2 Summary of responses to members' questions and comments: -

- Carers were given fire safety training
- The contingency plan for a system breakdown in the Joint Fire Control Centre worked when called upon recently
- Calls that are not answered within seven seconds are usually multiple calls for the same incident and are usually answered within a second or two more
- Calls that aren't answered within seven seconds are investigated and counted in the overall targets which are being met
- The Committee thought a Task & Finish Group might be needed if call response times continued to miss targets
- The Committee wished to see target times as well as percentages for first appliance attendance
- One reason the availability of retained fire fighters increased in recent quarters was that they were working from home during lockdowns

14.3 Resolved – that the Committee asks: -

- i. For the service to provide previous quarters information for comparison as part of the core measures
- ii. For numbers as well as percentages for Core Measure 21
- iii. Democratic Services to work with the Fire and Rescue Service to provide an updated report on the Joint Fire Control Centre at its meeting in March 2022 following the Task & Finish Group in January 2021
- iv. The service to check the data contained in the table for Core Measure 19 for accuracy
- v. To monitor responses times, and consider whether a Task & Finish Group may be required if this Core Measure 16 remains red

## **15. Priority Programme Update**

15.1 The Committee considered a report on the Priority Programme Update.

15.2 Summary of responses to members' questions and comments: -

- The Committee was interested in timescales for the Operational Assurance Project
- The shadow Board has been running for several months and helped with decision-making
- Diversity champions were raising awareness of equality and diversity issues within the service
- Targeted activity had resulted in a significant increase in applications from under-represented groups, however the aim was still to appoint based on quality

15.3 Resolved – that the Committee asks the Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that timescales for the Operational Assurance Project are included in future reports

## **16. Work Programme**

16.1 The Committee considered its work programme and made the following changes: -

- Call response times to be monitored
- The service's covid recovery plan to be added
- The inspection preparedness report to be taken off as the inspection had already taken place

## **17. Date of Next Meeting**

17.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 23 November 2021.

The meeting ended at 12.02 pm

Chairman