
Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee

26 September 2024

End of June 2024 (Quarter 1) Performance and Resources Report – Focus for Scrutiny

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

The Quarterly Performance and Resources Report (PRR) is the Council's reporting mechanism for corporate performance, finance, savings delivery, risk and workforce. It has been designed to reflect the priorities, outcomes and measures included in the Council Plan. The report is available to each scrutiny committee on a quarterly basis and each committee will consider how it wishes to monitor and scrutinise performance relevant to their area of business. Please note that this committee is only able to consider the Fire and Rescue Portfolio, please ignore the Community Support Portfolio which is scrutinised by the Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

The report (Appendix B) reflects the position at the end of June 2024 and reports the Quarter 1 2024/25 position. Of the four performance measures, 100% of measures are reporting as 'green', 0% as 'amber' and 0% as 'red'. The number of red rated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) has remained at zero since the last quarter.

The Fire and Rescue Service is projecting a balanced budget as at the end of June, however there are a number of pressures and mitigations that the service is controlling to forecast this position.

The PRR includes information which is specifically relevant to the portfolio responsibilities of the scrutiny committee which includes His Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recent visit, the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Annual Statement of Assurance 2023-24, the development of a Productivity and Efficiency Plan 2024 – 2025 (a short briefing note on this is attached as Appendix D) and the launch of a project to review the Retained Duty System.

The current Risk Register (Appendix C) is included to give a holistic understanding of the Council's current performance reflecting the need to manage risk proactively.

Focus for scrutiny

In reviewing the PRR, the Committee's role is to monitor performance, finance and risk at a strategic level for its portfolio areas. Its focus should be on key performance indicators that are identified as red or amber as well as any budget variations.

Key lines of enquiry include:

- What is being done to address areas of under-performance (KPIs currently showing as red or amber)
- Using the information on performance and finance, does the service being delivered meet the objectives in the Council Plan and does it provide value for money?
- The effectiveness of measures being taken to manage the revenue and capital budget position, specifically in relation to any budget variations, non-delivery of the capital programme or agreed savings
- Whether concerns raised previously by the Committee been addressed?
- To assess key corporate risks set out in the Risk Register relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility and plans to mitigate these
- Using the information on performance and finance does the service being delivered meet the objectives in the Council Plan and does it provide value for money
- To identify any issues for further in-depth scrutiny to include in the Committee's future work programme (where scrutiny may influence outcomes/add value)
- Identify any specific areas for action or response by the relevant Cabinet Member or for further scrutiny by one of the other scrutiny committees The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Performance and Resources Report (PRR) is designed to be used by all scrutiny committees as the main source of the County Council's performance information.
- 1.2 Appendix A – How to Read the Performance and Resources Report, provides some key highlights on the structure, content and a detailed matrix of the sections of the report which are expected to be reviewed by the different scrutiny committees.
- 1.3 The County Council is focused on delivering the four priorities as set out in the Council Plan: keeping people safe from vulnerable situations, a sustainable and prosperous economy, helping people and communities fulfil their potential and making the best use of resources, all underpinned by tackling climate change.
- 1.4 In the first quarter, the measures relevant to this committee reported:
 - 100% (4 measures) as 'Green'
 - 0% (0 measure) as 'Amber'
 - 0% (0 measures) as 'Red'

- 1.5 The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached appendices (listed below). As it is a report dealing with internal or procedural matters only the Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability, and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments are not required.

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Appendices

Appendix A – How to Read the Performance and Resources Report

Appendix B – Community Support, Fire and Rescue Portfolio - Summary

Appendix C – Corporate Risk Register Summary - June 2024

Appendix D: Briefing on Productivity and Efficiency Plan 2024 – 2025

Background papers: None