

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

4 SEPTEMBER 2018

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Lynne Thompson, Denise Allen, Peter Brennan, Janet Grace, Brian Kenny, Paul Tweed, Lisa Preston, Lesley Rennie and Roy Gladden

Also Present:

Apologies of absence were received from:

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Prior to the start of the meeting, information regarding general housekeeping was provided by the Chair to all in attendance.

The Chair confirmed to all present that the proceedings of the meeting would be filmed and requested that any members of the public present who objected to being filmed, make themselves known.

No members of the public voiced any objection therefore the meeting was declared open and recording commenced.

1. Preliminary Matters

Members considered the identification of declarations of interest, any urgent additional items, and any business that may require the exclusion of the press and public.

Members resolved that:

- a) Cllr Kenny declared a personal interest in relation to item 5 "ICT Managed Service 3 Year Contract Extension" on the Agenda, as he is employed by British Telecoms. No further declarations of interest were made by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the Agenda
- b) Additional item 6 "Proposed Formby LLAR Development" was determined by the Chair as a matter of urgency and included on the Agenda; and
- c) The following items of business required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof, due to the possible disclosure of exempt information:

- Agenda item 5 “ICT Managed Service 3 Year Contract Extension” contains EXEMPT information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Agenda item 6 “Proposed Formby LLAR Development” contains EXEMPT information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Safety & Protection Committee held on 1st February 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2018-19 APRIL-JULY UPDATE

Members considered report number CFO/053/18 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning performance against the objectives and the performance targets/outcomes as set out in the Service Delivery Plan 2018/19 for the period April to July 2018.

Members were provided with a brief introduction in relation to the 2018/19 planning process which began in January 2018. They were informed that the April to July Service Delivery Plan Performance Report for 2018/19, is the document that reports and updates on the Functional Plan action points and Key/Benchmark Performance Indicators, against the targets that were approved by Members in March 2018.

A presentation was then delivered to Members by Jackie Sutton - IRMP Officer, in support of the report, which highlighted the following:-

- There were 31 less primary fires this year, compared with the same period last year.
- In July 2018, performance against the attendance standard dropped due to the hot weather, which increased the volume of incidents crews attended, both in Merseyside and in neighbouring authorities. As performance remained above target for every other month, the attendance standard target has still been achieved.
- Carbon output was under target.
- In July, sickness absence amongst grey book staff exceeded the 4% target for the first time this year, but as other months were below target, cumulatively, all personnel sickness absence is still achieving the target.

- Accidental dwelling fires were under target which is consistent with last year's performance, however they did show a peak during June.
- Up to 31st July, there has been 1 fatality and 27 injuries resulting from accidental dwelling fires. Only 8 injuries were recorded as serious and the remainder were due to smoke inhalation.
- The number of deliberate vehicle fires has been an ongoing problem, but so far this year numbers have fallen with 44 less incidents than in 2017.
- The total number of false alarms that have been attended is within 10% of target.
- There were 4317 more emergency calls received between April and June this year than last year. In April there were 1603 calls recorded, raising to 6076 in July.
- In terms of incidents attended, there were 278 more than last year.
- The total number of secondary fires attended in April was very low at 233, due to heavy rain.
- The total number of special services attended was slightly under target.
- There has been 1 fatality at a Road Traffic Collision this year.
- Home Fire Safety Checks were suspended in July, meaning the numbers completed so far are slightly lower than last year. However the number of checks completed will be made up during the year.

Members thanked Jackie for a very informative presentation which highlighted some good figures, including the low fatality numbers. They stated that they are questioned by Members of Parliament regarding the performance of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services, so regular reports such as this ensures that they fully understand performance and are able to respond to questions when required.

Members questioned if the Government are aware of the figures with regards to climate change. They were informed that the Government get the figures first hand from the National Fire Chiefs Council, which includes any changes in weather that create busier periods for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. Members were also informed that this has been the busiest time for Fire Fighters regarding high temperatures since 1976.

It was suggested to Members that they may wish to scrutinise this issue at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Members then queried the reasons behind the increase in Grey Book Staff sickness absence and asked if more information could be provided to them, to identify any reasons for this increase.

Members asked if the increase could be connected to climate change and the result of this is an increase in incidents, but were advised that it is likely to be due to long term sickness absence.

Members were advised that they would be provided with this information and it was suggested that this could also be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee.

Members resolved that:

- a) the attached reports be approved for publication on the website.
- b) the impact of climate change on incidents, be recommended as a topic for scrutiny.
- c) the increase in sickness amongst grey book staff, be recommended as a topic for scrutiny.

4. The introduction of a People Strategy and Implementation Plan

Members considered report CFO/058/18 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the People Strategy and Implementation Plan which sets out our strategic intent regarding how we deliver our services through our people.

Members were informed that people are important to us and as an organisation we strive for safer, stronger communities and safe effective firefighters. Members were also advised that all our staff are important to us; and we want them to be the best they can be, and enable them to look after themselves.

Members were given a brief introduction to the report, highlighting the 6 key components – strengthening leadership, providing excellent training, maximising the wellbeing of staff (and having productive staff), develop cultural values (and reinforce them), diversifying our workforce (by recruiting significant numbers into the service from our many communities) and responding to service needs.

It was emphasised to Members that we are keen to get this right and that we engage with our staff and listen to the views of our people.

Members were advised that there will be a focus around the progression of female fire fighters.

Members queried whether this report had been shared with trade unions and they were informed that it had. Members suggested that this be stated within the report; and it was confirmed that it would be included.

Members applauded the work undertake around the wellbeing of staff, in particular, the work around Mental Health First Aid. Members wished to place on record, their thanks to all involved in the training.

Members resolved that:

the People Strategy and implementation plan, be approved.

5. ICT Managed Service 3-Year Contract Extension

This minute contains EXEMPT information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Proposed Formby LLAR Development

This minute contains EXEMPT information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Close

Date of next meeting Tuesday, 5 February 2019

Signed: _____

Date: _____