

**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**PERFORMANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**11 DECEMBER 2014**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr Ted Grannell (Chair) , Cllrs Robbie Ayres, Barbara Murray, Jean Stapleton, Sharon Sullivan, Lesley Rennie and Anthony Boyle

**Also Present:**

**Apologies of absence were received from:**  
Roy Gladden

**ANNOUNCEMENTS PRIOR TO AGENDA:**

Prior to the opening of the meeting, the Chair confirmed that there were no members of the press or public in attendance and the meeting was not being recorded.

At the start of the meeting, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer informed Members of a number of awards recently received by the Authority, including:

- ***AFSA Award for Positive Action*** – received in relation to the Authority's recent Firefighter recruitment programme.
- ***I Network Award*** - for Innovation in Data Sharing
- ***Security & Fire Excellence Award*** – awarded to the Fire Support Network for Community Safety Project of the Year.

Members were informed that 5 awards had been received recently and a report will be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee concerning those awarded to the Fire Support Network.

**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.

**Resolved that:**

- a) The following declarations of interest were made by Members in relation to items on the Agenda:

- Cllrs Lesley Rennie and Jean Stapleton declared a Personal Interest in relation to Agenda Item 8 – Halloween and Bonfire Period 2014, due to being trustees of the Fire Support Network.
- b) no additional items of business to be considered as matters of urgency were determined by the Chair; and
- c) no items of business required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

## **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Committee, held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

## **3. Sefton District Update 2014**

(CFO/123/14)

Members were provided with a presentation by Group Manager Rob Pritchard - District Manager for Sefton.

The presentation provided Members with an overview of the structure of the Sefton District Team, headed by GM Rob Pritchard and discussed the geographical and socio-economic features of the district that effectuate the planning process and delivery of Sefton's Community Safety Plan 2014/15.

The presentation highlighted the valuable engagement that the Fire and Rescue Service has with a number of partners in Sefton. These partnerships, through sharing data and resources allow for targeted response to, and early identification of risks and vulnerable individuals within the district.

Members were provided with information on the outcomes and performance for the period April - October 2014. Operational Staff had recorded above-expected hours of Community Engagement with good participation from all stations within the District. Home Fire Safety Checks were above expected levels and were being targeted to those most at risk, with visits taking longer.

There were some areas for improvement identified in terms of performance with Road Traffic Collisions being a continuing issue for the District and for Merseyside as a whole.

The presentation highlighted some notable instances of performance against District and Station Plans. In particular, engagement with partners has produced some really positive outcomes; and a successful bonfire period.

Members then considered Report CFO/123/14 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning performance of Sefton District against the delivery of the Sefton Community Safety Plan for 2014/15.

Resolved that:

Performance in relation to this report concerning the success and remaining challenge for Sefton District Stations, Protection & Prevention Teams in the delivery of the Sefton Community Safety Plan for 2014-15, be noted.

**4. SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2014/15 QUARTER 2 UPDATE**

(CFO/120/14)

Members were provided with a presentation by Jackie Sutton – IRMP Officer, concerning an overview of performance against the objectives and targets within the Service Delivery Plan for 2014/15, for the second quarter.

Members raised a number of questions about the Service Delivery Plan discussing in particular depth areas such as; work with Registered Social Landlords, Absence and Capability, and Road Traffic Collisions.

Members recalled that an outcome of the recent Task and Finish Group for Review of HR Policies was to invite Members to observe the training for Managers to take place in relation to the new HR Policies and Procedures. The Committee was advised that this training has not yet started, but Members would be more than welcome to attend the sessions once they commence.

Members then considered Report CFO/120/14 concerning scrutiny of performance against the objectives and targets set in the Service Delivery Plan 2014/15 for the period April 2014 to September 2014.

Resolved that:

1. Performance concerning the IRMP, Service Delivery Plan, Functional Plan action points and the suite of Key Performance Indicators for 2014/15 for the period April to September 2014, be noted; and
2. The invitation to Members to observe training for Managers to take place on the new HR Policies and Procedures as resolved at Authority 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014, be noted.

**5. Equality and Diversity (E and D) Action Plan 2013-16 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Progress Report for Year two activity**

(CFO/117/14)

Members considered Report CFO/117/14 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning an update on the progress against the Equality and Diversity (E&D)

Action Plan 2013 -16 between April and September 2014, and in particular progress made against the Year 2 Actions.

Members scrutinised how Equality and Diversity principles are embedded across the Authority in each area of work.

The Committee heard how the Safe Havens scheme was being extended to include all Liverpool stations. Members questioned how effective Safe Havens are, how many people use them and why they do. The Committee also questioned how publicised the Safe Havens are and what more can be done to publicise them.

Resolved that:

1. The level of progress made to date with regards to Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, be noted; and
2. A report on how the Safe Havens are used be brought to this committee.

**6. Staff Survey - MFRS Positive Engagement Plan – Update**

(CFO/118/14)

Members considered Report CFO/118/14 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning scrutiny of the proposals for the development of an action plan to respond to the outcomes from the staff survey 2014.

The committee heard about the actions taken to develop an action plan following the results of the Staff Survey which was conducted earlier in the year and reported to the Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 (CFO/104/14).

The Lead Member for Strategy and Performance highlighted the outcomes of the Staff survey relating to the profile of the Authority. Members discussed how the profile of the Authority could be raised to improve staff awareness of the role and responsibilities of the Authority and the Councillors who form it.

Resolved that:

1. The information contained within this report concerning the development of an Engagement Action Plan in relation to the Staff Survey results, be noted; and
2. Members be requested to consider ways in which they can raise their own profile and the profile of the Authority as a whole; and inform Officers of any suggestions they may have.

**7. Ageing Safely Week**

(CFO/110/14)

Members considered Report CFO/110/14 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the activity undertaken and outcomes achieved during Ageing Safely Week 2014. The report highlighted the number of vulnerable people visited and the good interaction between uniform and non-uniform staff on the day as positive outcomes of the event.

Resolved that:

1. The findings of the report that cover Ageing Safely Week, be noted; and
2. The inclusion of Older Person's Day in the calendar of events for 2015, be noted.

**8. Halloween and Bonfire Period 2014**

(CFO/122/14)

Members considered Report CFO/122/14 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the performance of the Service over the Halloween and Bonfire period 2014.

The committee scrutinised the performance and saw that in the main, incidents for the period had risen when compared with last year's figures. This was considered to be attributable to events falling in the school holidays and warmer, drier weather than last year.

The incidences of Violence at Work (VAW) were also questioned as to whether any prosecutions had arisen. Members were advised the Authority works closely with Police on these matters and that there were no prosecutions arising from VAW incidents at this time.

Resolved that:

1. Performance in relation to the Halloween and Bonfire Period 2014, be noted.
2. The information contained within the report concerning incidents; and prevention activities throughout the Halloween and Bonfire Period 2014, be noted.

**9. Application Strategy 2014**

(CFO/119/14)

Members considered Report CFO/119/14 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning feedback from the ICT and Information Management Steering group regarding the Authorities Application Strategy and the current list of key Application replacements and their associated implementation timetable.

Members scrutinised the delivery of applications and scope to adopt future technologies. The benefits of joint working were also discussed.

Resolved that:

The feedback from the ICT and IM Steering Group regarding Application Strategy and the existing and future update/replacement timetable, be noted.

**10. Standing Item: Forward Work Plan**

Members considered the Forward Work Plan of the Performance and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved that:

1. The following reports due to be considered at the next meeting be noted:
  - a. How well MFRA works with partners
  - b. Incidences of Cross Border assistance

Close

Date of next meeting Thursday, 19 March 2015

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_