



**MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE held on 4 April 2012 at Lecture Theatre, Fire Service HQ, at 10:00.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors, M Biggin, J Kerr Brown, K Musgrave, S Nelson, M Simon (Chair), A Tate, J Weatherill and Independent Member W Ravenscroft

**PART 1 – MATTERS CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC**

**1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

**B DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations of Members interests.

**C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: That**

**the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 February 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**MATTERS ARISING:**

The Chief Fire Officer provided Members with an update on the following items detailed within the minutes:

Community Budgets: An update would be provided to Members at the next Planning Days scheduled for July.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels: The installation at Winsford Fire Station had been completed, and Members were informed that planning permission was currently awaited prior to the proposed installation at Runcorn Fire Station.

ICT Infrastructure Programme: An update would be included on the agenda at the next Fire Authority meeting in April 2012.

**D MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: That**

**the minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 14 March 2012 be received, for information.**

## **ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION**

### **2 QUARTER 3 (Q3) FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2011-12**

The Head of Finance introduced the first part of this report and provided Members with an update of the Service's financial performance. A financial table was included as an Annex to the report, and he summarised the key reasons for under/overspends and the expected outturn position against the agreed budget.

He highlighted the creation of a provision in relation to a claim against the Authority in relation to asbestosis. He explained that there was an issue between the Service's previous insurer and the new insurer as to liability for the settlement payment, and it was subsequently ruled to be the liability of the previous insurer. This company was no longer trading, and so this could result in the Service not recovering all the costs incurred.

The Head of Planning, Performance and Communications presented the service performance detailed within the report and summarised the key indicators and highlighted variances against targets. He brought to Members' attention the number of fatalities and injuries that had occurred in accidental dwelling fires, and advised them that the Service had been engaged in working with the coroner to help raise awareness of community safety issues. The coroner was supportive of the Service and the work that the Service continued to carry out to reduce the number of incidents.

Members queried the increase in non domestic premises fires and asked whether resourcing between domestic and non-domestic prevention work had been considered by the Service. It was confirmed that prevention work in non domestic premises had been increased and the Service continued to take a more proactive approach in this area. Members asked for more information on how the prevention work for non domestic premises was undertaken by the Service's Community Fire Protection Department, and requested that a report be brought back to this Committee.

Members also discussed the departmental reports which included an update on Operation Snow Angel, which had been designed through a partnership approach to reduce accidents, illness and deaths caused by extreme cold weather. It was suggested that there could be a role for young fire cadets to be engaged in this work, as they already had the links within the community, this was noted for further consideration.

It was proposed to Members that future reporting arrangements going forward for scrutiny by this Committee would focus on mid and end of year reviews which would continue to be reported in detail, and the quarter 1 and 3 reports would only report to the Committee by exception.

The Chair requested that Officers also considered the possibility of future policies that could be brought to this Committee for scrutiny in the first instance, prior to agreement being sought from the Service's Policy Committee and Fire Authority.

**RESOLVED: That**

**[1] the 2011-12 Q3 progress report be noted; and**

**[2] the revised financial and reporting arrangements for 2012-13 be agreed.**

### **3 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY UPDATE**

The Head of Planning, Performance and Communications summarised this report for Members, which provided an update on the work that had taken place against the Equalities Action Plan which was attached as an annex to the report. He highlighted some key areas of work within the report, and emphasised the need to maintain standards following the Excellent standard in Equality and Diversity being achieved.

He highlighted further progress in the following areas:

- the increased membership with more specific representatives for the Equality Task Group
- continued work which had provided a clear structure for Equality Impact Assessments, to be included when reviewing policies

Members discussed the content of the report and action plan and queried the inclusion of carers in the Flexible Working Policies detailed. The Equality and Diversity Officer confirmed that carers were included in the Flexible Working Policy.

Members also suggested that the requirements of the community should be considered when planning for the future refurbishment of fire stations.

**RESOLVED: That**

**the performance update be received.**

### **4 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Monitoring Officer presented the Performance and Overview Committee's Forward Work Programme to Members which included items that had been identified to date. Members were asked to agree any additional items to be added to the programme.

Members discussed the addition of a report which provided information on the non domestic premises prevention work being carried out by the Service, and also the inclusion of a report which detailed the Service's recruitment practices and selection process, following the Staff Survey results.

**RESOLVED: That**

- [1] the following items be added to the Forward Work Programme:**
- a report on non domestic premises prevention work
  - a report on recruitment practices