

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

At a meeting of the **Performance Committee** held remotely on **Tuesday 24 November 2020** at **1000 hours**.

Present: Cllr R Manchester in the Chair

Durham County Council: Cllrs J Bell, Cllr Brian Avery, and D Stoker

Darlington Borough Council: Cllr G Lee

Officers: S Helps, S Wharton, K Metcalfe

Part A

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr C Carr.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 September 2020 were agreed as true record.

3 Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21

S Wharton presented the report which gave a summary of organisational performance at the end of the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

S Wharton outlined the indicators in turn noting where performance was strong, where performance had been affected by Covid-19 and where additional work was required to secure improvement. Overall, 76% of the strategic PI's met or exceeded their target level, whilst 67% of the strategic PI's either maintained or improved when compared to performance last year.

Cllr Avery noted the report hit home; incidents can happen very quickly from a moment of distraction.

Cllr Lee complimented the Fire Service, recognising performance continues to improve through the recent difficult months.

Cllr Lee noted the issue with fly tipping and the installation of a potential bollards at specific locations.

Cllr Lee noted PI02 the issues over Peterlee/Easington area. Would there be comparable figures over time of all the additional work which is being undertaken in these particular areas.

Cllr Lee noted PI02 and the last sentence 'Academic research is being commissioned to audit data sets within the Service and study the culture associated with deliberate fires across the north east'. When would this data be available?

SH responded to Cllr Lee's comments. S Helps stated that the service is working with partners to address fly tipping especially the Local Authorities. S Helps also appreciates Councillors of the Combined Fire Authority highlighting the need for effective waste management policies and the prompt removal of fly tipping within their respective Council areas. S Wharton advised he would pick up specific locations outside of this meeting with Cllr Lee. S Helps advised the long-standing prevention work on the east coast has seen a decrease over time, although more recently the levels of arson has increased. S Helps outlined the involvement with the Academic research and this would be made available when the work has been completed.

Cllr Stoker noted the University accommodations and the current situation with students being unable to leave their accommodation if this was a potential fire risk. S Wharton advised the student halls of residence conform to fire safety standards, they form part of the services Risk Based Inspection Program and along with residential care facilities remain a priority of the fire safety department audit program. The increased occupancy of student accommodation due to Covid has however not resulted in any increase in operational activity to date.

The Committee **noted** and **commented** on the report.

4 Sickness Absence Performance Quarter 2

K Metcalfe gave an update on the sickness absence performance for the periods 1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020 and sickness for each staff group was discussed and in relation to Covid-19.

The committee **noted** the report.

5 Letters of Appreciation

The Committee considered the various letters of appreciation that had been submitted to the Service. In total 12 letters had been received for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020.

The Committee **noted** the report.

Part B

7 Formal Complaints

One formal complaint has been received by the Service in the reporting period of 1 July to 30 September. No complaints had been forwarded to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Members **noted** the report.

8 Release of the Home Office Data Packs to FRS's

S Helps presented the report following the appointment of Lord Greenhalgh as Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire and Communities at the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and Home Office, all CFO's, the Chairs of Fire and Rescue Service Authorities and PFCC received a data indicator pack from the Home Office in October 2020. The data pack focuses on a number of national indicators and provides a yearly comparator supported by a five-year average which provides a longer-term baseline.

S Helps presented an overview of the data pack and provided members with reassurance that the service was using the data to reflect on current performance and future strategy development.

Following debate, it was agreed that at a future performance committee, officers would outline the process and involvement of the service as a consultee in support of the planning application process. The presentation will outline the services legal obligations out outlined within the Regulatory Reformed Fire Safety Order along with the role of key partners such as Local Authority and Approved Inspectors. All members agreed this would be very beneficial.