

## County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

At a meeting of the **Performance Committee** held remotely on **Monday 1 March 2021** at **1000 hours**.

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr R Manchester in the Chair
<b>Durham County Council:</b>	J Bell, D Stoker, J Shuttleworth (substitute for B Avery)
<b>Darlington Borough Council:</b>	Cllr G Lee
<b>Officers:</b>	S Helps, S Warton, K Metcalfe, J Trowell and A Hobson (item 3 only), C Hockaday (Item 4 only)

### Part A

#### 1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr C Carr and B Avery.

#### 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November 2020 were agreed as true record.

#### 3 Retained Duty System Project Update

The RDS Liaison Officers, J Trowell and A Hobson joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the Retained Duty System which covered:-

- Streamline recruitment process
- Strategic priorities
- Web page/on line recruitment
- Taster days
- Moving forward 2021
- Evaluation and feedback

Cllr Shuttleworth noted that streamlining the recruitment process was a good thing.

Cllr Bell queried feedback. J Trowell noted that feedback is gained from all including those people who didn't progress further with the process. Some people were unable to progress as they could not give the cover the service required. It was reinforced to this group that if their circumstances changed that they could approach the service again.

Cllr Lee queried the number of RDS the service needed to recruit, J Trowell noted that the service is always looking to recruit as we do not have a retirement profile as not primary employer for the RDS and retention work was still being undertaken.

S Helps thanked J Trowell and A Hobson for their work on RDS recruitment and how positive it had been to see the RDS numbers increase.

**4 Overview and Outline of the Building Planning Process**

C Hockaday joined the meeting and gave an overview of the Fire Service input into planning applications and building regulations and noted that the Fire Service are not a statutory consultee for planning. Discussion followed on how the service works with building inspectors and the role that the service plays in advising planners.

S Helps noted that the service's investment and the increase in the numbers of staff who are now trained to undertake fire safety audits is increasing the number of premises we visit in support of the services risk based inspection programme.

S Helps thanked C Hockaday for his presentation.

**5 Performance Report Quarter Three 2020/21**

The organisational performance indicators for quarter three of the 2020/21 financial year were presented to the committee by S Wharton.

The committee discussed the indicators in turn noting where performance was strong or where additional work was required to secure improvement. Overall 70% of the strategic PIs met or exceeded their target level.

The committee **noted** the report.

**6 Sickness Absence Performance Quarter Three**

K Metcalfe gave an update on the sickness absence performance for the period.

Cllr Lee queried the amount of wholtime shift lost to COVID-19. K Metcalfe outlined the measures being taken to mitigate this.

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

**7 Letters of Appreciation**

The Committee considered the various letters of appreciation that had been submitted to the Service. In total 19 letters had been received for the quarter one period.

Cllr Lee asked for an additional letter of appreciation to be added for the assistance he was given by Darlington Crews in delivering 600 shoe boxes to school children for his Silent Santa appeal.

The Committee **noted** the report.

**Part B**

**8 Formal Complaints**

Two formal complaints had been received by the Service in the reporting period. No complaints had been forwarded to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Members **noted** the report.