

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

At a meeting of the **Performance Committee** held at CDDFRS HQ on **Thursday 10 March 2022** at **1000 hours**.

Present:	Cllr J Blakey in the Chair
Durham County Council:	Cllr S Quinn, Cllr R Manchester
Darlington Borough Council:	Cllr G Lee
Officers:	Deputy Chief Fire Officer S Helps and Area Manager K Wanley

Part A

1. Appointment of Chair for this meeting

Cllr Blakey was appointed as new Chair of the Performance Committee.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr C Marshall and Cllr K Rooney

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 December were agreed as true record

4. Bonfire Period Update

Area Manager Keith Wanley presented Members with an update on key outcomes from the Bonfire Period 2021 evaluation. The presentation and report summarised data from the period 25th October to 7th November 2021 including:

- Calls received and incidents attended
- Deliberate primary fires
- Secondary fires and their locations
- False alarms types
- Attacks on crews
- Firework related incidents

The new plan in place has been a real success. Initiatives including joint patrols with council officers, educating young people and working with Tesco to distribute 5000 leaflets to households through home deliveries. Members of the Committee commended all partners for their support and messaging; helping to keep communities safe during the Bonfire Period

Cllr Quinn asked if the figures are a reflection in the reduced number of organised displays due to COVID. K Wanley explained that through improved messaging incidents have been kept to a minimum. It was noted that firework displays may need to be monitored during the Queen's Jubilee in June.

Cllr Lee noted that the success of this year should be celebrated.

Cllr Manchester queried if the Tesco leaflet drop was a targeted approach in terms of incident hotspot locations. K Wanley agreed to check this to ensure focus is on areas of the County with the highest number of reported incidents.

The Committee **noted** the report and presentation.

5. Performance Report Quarter 3 2021/2022

The organisational performance indicators for quarter three of the 2021/22 financial year were presented to the committee by K Wanley.

The Committee discussed the indicators in turn noting where performance was strong or where additional work was required to secure improvement.

Cllr Lee queried if businesses are charged for repeat false alarms. K Wanley explained there is a process in place to charge businesses if false alarms occur three times within a 12 month period. Less than 5% of premises have been charged due to preventions put in place following the first occurrence.

Fire Safety Audits are carried out and evacuation plans are considered as part of this process. Businesses are required to demonstrate they have sufficient evacuation plans in place although we can only enforce what is part of their building regulations.

Cllr Quinn asked if there are any recorded cases of long COVID within the service. S Helps confirmed there are cases of long COVID and the impact of these will be monitored closely via lung capacity tests for operational staff.

Cllr Lee asked if health care needs identified through the Safe and Well Visits are referred. K Wanley explained that referrals are made to relevant partners if any health care needs are identified.

The committee **noted** the report.

6. 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 three period.

The Committee **noted** the report.

Part B

7 Formal Complaints

One formal complaint had been received by the Service in the reporting period. The complaint was not upheld. No complaints had been forwarded to the Local Government Ombudsman.

The Committee **noted** the report.

Members thanked K Wanley for his support and dedication to the Performance Committee and wished him well for the future.