



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 24 January 2020

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor G Almas (in the chair), M Akhtar (for agenda items 1 – 10 only Min nos. 23 – 32 refer), T Austin, D Jenkins, R Hunt, M Pervaiz (for agenda items 1 – 10 only Min nos. 23 – 32 refer), M Pollard, A Tait and A Wenham (as substitute for Councillor K Renshaw)

In Attendance: Councillor R Grahame

Apologies: Councillors D Hall and K Renshaw

23 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October 2019 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

24 Matters arising

None.

25 Urgent items

In response to a question Members were provided with a brief verbal update regarding the Service's response to recent announcements regarding the fire safety of premises affected by the ongoing cladding problem, and other associated fire safety issues.

26 Admission of the public

There were not items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

27 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

28 Primary Authority charging - VAT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer which provided an update on the appropriate charging mechanism in respect of Value Added Tax (VAT) for the Primary Authority scheme (PAS).

It was reported that, following additional guidance issued by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in early 2019, the scheme should be exempt from VAT charging. VAT charges had previously been applied to PAS invoices in error and Members were advised that this historic charging of VAT would be retrospectively corrected and future invoices would reflect the exemption from these charges.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

29 Wildfire review

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which updated Members on the independent Wildfire review of the operational response to the moorland fires at Easter and in July 2019.

It was reported that, whilst the Brigade currently had significant capabilities, the review had identified areas of learning and presented an action plan to address the areas of development including the following high priority issues;

- Additional two-day course at appropriate stations with input from the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) and Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service
- Review of e-learning course content
- The issue of wildfire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all wildfire stations with additional central provision for mobilisation as appropriate
- Increase in the number of all-terrain vehicles (Argocats) with appropriate additional driver training, and
- Increase in knowledge and understanding of designated stations in the areas of wildfire risk

Members commented specifically on the following;

- Training
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Use of drones

- Timeframe for improvements, and
- Mobile communication geographical coverage

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

30 Service Delivery - Spotlight On case studies

Members received a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which provided examples of the following areas of work which were being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities of West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity;

- The emollient project
- Dewsbury 'Care in the Community' initiative

Members were particularly encouraged by the speed in which the regulatory changes had been made with regard to statutory labelling on emollient products and also expressed their hopes that the Dewsbury initiative could be replicated across the whole of the Brigade area.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

31 Draft PMI (performance monitoring indicators) targets 2020 – 21

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which advised of the provisional performance targets for 2020 – 21 both for the Brigade as a whole and on an individual District basis. It was reported that these would remain provisional until such time as the full year-end figures had been received which may affect the three-year average on which the targets were based.

The following specific issues were discussed;

- Disparity of figures for malicious false alarms between Leeds and Bradford compared with the other three Districts, and
- The effect on outcome figures where use of the "Gaining Entry" protocol was included in the target related to false alarms

Performance against the targets would be monitored and reported at six months post implementation and at the end of the fiscal year.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

32 SafeTALK training programme

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which sought Member support for the delivery of SafeTALK training.

Members were advised that funding had been received from external partners to train members of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service staff who would deliver a dedicated training programme in-house around suicide prevention to all employees over a four-year period.

RESOLVED

That Members support the delivery of the SafeTALK suicide prevention training programme.

33 Incident Recording System (IRS) – presentation

Members received a brief presentation and demonstration of the Incident Recording System (IRS) which was used to record all the details relevant to every incident within the Brigade area.

Not only did the IRS inform the Integrated Risk Management planning arrangements, but it also provided evidence of “hotspots” which linked across to the bespoke FireMap tool which provided a visual record of incidents by type, time, location etc.

It was reported that the Home Office also used the IRS information which was submitted on a monthly basis for central analysis and reporting.

Chair