

Minutes of the OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE of the BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY held on FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2010 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Councillor Tallack (Chairman)  
Councillors Anson Busby, Davies and Dhillon

**Officers:** B Dugdale (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), R Harold (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), D Keen (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), D O'Driscoll (Area Manager – Response), S Gowanlock (Group Manager - Performance and Planning), and S Heap (Democratic Services Manager)

**Apologies:** Councillors Cartwright and Woollard

**Also Present:** Councillor Rogerson

**OP09 MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2009, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**OP10 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009/12 – PERFORMANCE TARGET SETTING FOR 2010/11**

The Committee considered draft proposals for performance targets for the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010/11, in considering the targets the Committee noted that consultation on the targets would be undertaken with Local Strategic Partnerships, the Fire Brigades Union, staff and the public via the Website.

The Committee particularly noted that officers believed that the main targets which needed to be reviewed related to the Authority's prevention activity, specifically around reducing arson and fires relating to anti-social behaviour, as the current targets were not considered to be sufficiently challenging.

The Committee also noted potential new targets relating to the completion of home safety checks both generally and specifically in houses in multiple occupation; the number of home safety checks for vulnerable persons, non-domestic property audits, appeals against alteration / enforcement / prohibition notices, road safety in terms of the number of drivers wearing seat belts, the reduction in primary fires, working in vulnerable areas to reduce risk; supporting work to reduce health inequalities; attendance of command officers at incidents and gaining greater feedback from customers on operational performance.

In answer to questions the Committee noted:

- (a) that a target of completing 10,000 home safety checks had been set to reflect that between 8,000 and 9,000 would be completed this year. Officers were liaising with colleagues in local authority social care departments and the primary care trusts to identify vulnerable persons as well as using the vulnerable localities index to identify high risk areas and providing publicity in public locations. This would support the new 'healthy communities' objective. The Authority would also be trying to engage community champions to distribute fire prevention literature;
- (b) that houses in multiple occupation would be targeted for home safety checks, although there were problems in identifying many houses in multiple occupation unless these were registered with the local authority;
- (c) that records of fire causes were used to allow specific targeting of areas with particular fire safety messages;
- (d) that the Chief Fire Officers Association was involved in modelling various weather scenarios to ascertain the potential impact on service provision;
- (e) that following a report on the Headquarters building by the Carbon Trust, environmental management measures were being rolled out in the Authority's other premises;
- (f) that officers were look at measures, such as special winter tyres on appliances, to help maintain response times during bad weather conditions;
- (g) that each Station had a 'community activity' which was tailored to identified local risk and priorities; and
- (h) that the Improvement and Development Agency was piloting an equalities programme with Liverpool Fire Authority, which it was then hoped to be available for other fire and rescue authorities.

The Committee recognised that targets needed to be measurable and outcome based.

It was reported that the results of the consultation would be reported to Executive Committee on 19 March 2010.

RESOLVED –

That the draft proposals for performance targets for the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010/11 be endorsed for consultation.

## **OP11**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09**

The Committee considered the Annual Report for 2008/09, which provided a review of performance against the 2008/09 Integrated Risk Management Plan Action Plan targets, prior to its external publication.

The Committee noted that the Report, while not a statutory requirement, provided useful background information on past performance to assist stakeholders with consideration of the proposed draft 2010 /11 Integrated Risk Management Plan Action Plan performance targets.

The Committee also noted that a full review of Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/09 performance was presented to the former Overview, Performance and Audit Committee at its meeting of 20 May 2009 and the Annual Report was designed as a public facing version of the information presented to that committee.

In answer to questions the Committee noted:

- (a) that the Authority benchmarked its performance against other fire and rescue services, other emergency services, local authorities and various private sector bodies;
- (b) that details of performance targets for the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010/11 would be consulted on and the initial outcomes from the consultation reported to the next meeting before formal consideration of the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010/11 was undertaken by the Executive Committee on 19 March 2010;
- (c) that traffic problems in Aylesbury could cause difficulties for appliances in meeting response times, however this was most likely as a result of retained staff having difficulty in reaching the Station. The Authority's response modelling software allowed response times to be modelled taking account of differing road conditions. Officers indicated that they would approach Buckinghamshire County Council about the possibility of the Authority being consulted prior to any major road works being commenced; and
- (d) that a report on the affects the recent bad weather had had on the Authority's response to incidents would be submitted to a future meeting and take account of discussions taking place at the Local Resilience Forum which involved the other emergency services and key partners.

Further to its last meeting of the Committee noted:

- (a) that the Local Strategic Partnerships in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes were likely to achieve the target for the National Performance Indicator relating to a reduction in people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents;
- (b) the number of persons over the age of 65 years killed or seriously injured from 2005 onwards;
- (c) details of the on the strategies employed by the Authority to reduce road traffic collisions; and

- (d) a breakdown of road traffic collisions between males and females and drivers / riders and pedestrians.

RESOLVED –

That the contents of the annual report, prior to its external publication, be noted.

**OP12**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 3 March 2010.

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.07 AM