



# Minutes

## Community Safety Committee

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Date: 25 October 2019

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Birkenshaw

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Present: Councillor G Almas (in the chair), M Akhtar, S Benton, P Harrand (as substitute for Councillor R Hunt), D Hall, D Jenkins, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, K Renshaw, F Shaheen (as substitute for Councillor T Austin) and A Tait

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillors T Austin and R Hunt

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### 10 Chair's announcements

The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Councillor David Hall to the meeting as this was his first Fire Authority meeting since being appointed on 1 October 2019.

### 11 Minutes of the last meeting

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 July 2019 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 12 Matters arising

None.

### 13 Urgent items

None.

## **14 Admission of the public**

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

## **15 Declarations of interest**

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

## **16 Bonfire Plan 2019**

Members were provided with a verbal update on the Bonfire Plan for 2019.

It was reported that work on bonfire planning had commenced over the mid-summer period with the assistance of West Yorkshire Police, local district councils and other community / voluntary partners.

The planning revolved around the following issues;

- Protection – safe and regulated sale of fireworks (ca. 40 new applications in 2019)
- Prevention – local prevention plans at community level lead by the District and Station Commanders, focussed on multi-agency working and advice in schools, litter clearance and bonfire management advice
- Response – an enhanced planned response had been put in place both over, and immediately prior, to the Bonfire period, increased deployment of fire cars and additional resources
- Conflict management – staff training to minimise the potential for attack, enhanced police reporting systems, increased media presence and social media messaging

The following specific issues were raised;

- Fly tipping / environmental audits
- Additional police units on patrol
- Community events and organised bonfires
- Commitment to share RSPCA messages relating to bonfire safety and animals

### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That an update report be submitted to the December 2019 meeting of the Full Authority.

## **17 District Action Plans 2019 – 20 – six monthly update**

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which updated Members on the District Action Plans 2019 – 20.

Members sought further clarification on the following issues;

- Methods for partnership (eg. NHS) and self-referrals for projects and interventions aimed at decreasing risk and improving health and wellbeing
- Action on hoarding
- Enhanced foam training at Teesside airport
- Management and monitoring of waste sites

## **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **18 Quality of Service surveys 2018 – 19**

Members received an annual report of the Chief Legal and Governance Officer which advised of the feedback received with regard to service delivery during 2018 – 19 in respect of the following;

- After the Incident (quality of service survey) - 98% satisfaction from both domestic properties and from commercial premises
- Home Fire Safety checks (subsequently replaced by Safe and Well visits) – 99% satisfaction
- School Fire Safety visits – 100% satisfaction

In response to concerns about the relevance of all the information in the survey documents, Members were advised that the current reporting system was used to some extent in other Brigades and that alternative methods of recording / reporting quality of service would be assessed in terms of their viability for use by this Authority.

## **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **19 Youth Interventions team - annual report**

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which detailed the progress made and work undertaken by the Youth Interventions Team during the 2018 – 19 academic year.

It was reported that the portfolio of interventions had expanded during the course of the year to include the successful delivery of the Prince's Trust team programme targeted at young people aged 16 – 25 years who were not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

Interventions had been delivered to 1,050 young people during the year, including 119 high risk firesetters and the team continued to collaborate with other partners in the delivery of personal and employability programmes.

Detail of the progress made against the priorities for the 2018 – 19 year were included in the report now submitted and Members were advised of the priorities that had been set for the current academic year as follows;

- continued development of a specialist team through targeted training programmes
- continued expansion of the Prince's Trust programme delivery
- maintain quality of service delivery

- completion of the office move with minimal impact on service delivery

It was further noted that, as the team developed, there was increasing reliance on securing external funding and, therefore, the team was becoming less able to tackle its dependency on a cost recovery model.

Further information was sought by Members on the following;

- firesetter referrals and categorisation, and
- targeted audiences (including looked after children)

## **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **20 Performance against PMI (performance monitoring indicators) targets 2019 – 20**

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which advised of performance against the 2019 – 20 performance outcome targets. Updated data was circulated at the meeting for Members' consideration.

It was reported that current mid-year projections had indicated that performance was set to meet or exceed target for the following incident types;

- arson (32% reduction to date)
- dwelling fires (on target to achieve the lowest incidence rate since the introduction of the new recording system)
- false alarms
- fire-related injuries
- malicious false alarms

Members were advised of the areas that were projected not to be within target at the year end and explanations for each was given to the Committee;

- non-domestic building fires, and
- total activity (current mid-year figures indicate a 17% reduction on 2018 – 19 results)
- actual rescues (detailed breakdown of figures would be available through the District Commanders), and
- road traffic collisions (including reference to concerns about Smart motorways)

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That a presentation be made at the next subsequent meeting of the Community Safety Committee on the Incident Reporting System (IRS).

## **21 Service Delivery - Spotlight On case studies**

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report 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;

- Moortown Social Isolation project
- North Byland Day of Action
- Isolated homes and impassable roads

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **22 Community Engagement Strategy**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which sought approval for the introduction of a Community Engagement Strategy.

It was reported that the Strategy set out how community engagement would be delivered with a view to achieving the goals and priorities of the service, to whom it would be delivered and how it would be monitored. Members were advised that it was also proposed to develop guidance for members of staff to successfully deliver the strategy.

### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the introduction of the Community Engagement Strategy as detailed in the report now submitted.

Chair