

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

1 February 2012

Present:-

Councillors Way (Vice Chair - in the Chair), Bakewell (vice Dyke), Burridge-Clayton, Drean, Mills and Radford.

Apologies:-

Councillors Dyke (Chair) and Gribble.

***APRC/22. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2011 be signed as a correct record.

***APRC/23. Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had any personal/personal and prejudicial interests in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and declare any such interests at this time.

No interests were declared.

***APRC/24. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority Performance Report: April to November 2011**

The Committee received for information a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer (APRC/12/1) that set out the Service's performance in April to November 2011, as measured against the targets set out within the Corporate Plan for 2011/12 to 2013/14.

The Committee was informed of the progress made against the targets with particular emphasis on areas where there had been a positive improvement or a decrease in performance in particular. In this regard, the following points were noted:

Measures 1 to 3 - Deaths, injuries and incidents which occurred as a result of fire in the places where people lived:

- In terms of measure 1, it was noted that there had been 4 deaths to November 2011. A downward trend was still being maintained, however.
- On measure 2, there had been 32 injuries recorded to November 2011, of these 25 were at accidental fires at places where people lived, lower than the same period in the 2 years previously. 7 of these were deliberate, however.
- There had been a 13% drop (672 fires as opposed to 775 the previous year) in the number of fires in places where people lived, although it was noted that the number of deaths was not dropping proportionately.

- The downward trend in respect of measures 2 & 3 was still being maintained which was very positive.

Measures 4 to 6 - Deaths, injuries and incidents which occurred as a result of fire in the places where people worked and visited:

- Measure 4 - The level of deaths arising as a result of fire in places where people worked and visited had remained fairly consistent at 4 or 5 a year since 2007/08. The 4 deaths to date in 2011/12 related to the road traffic collision (RTC) on the M5 in November 2011, however, it was yet to be confirmed if these were all attributable to fire rather than being impact related.
- The number of injuries arising as a result of the fires associated with the M5 RTC had yet to be confirmed and therefore the statistics showed a figure of 0.
- There was a decreasing trend since 2007/08 in respect of the number of fires where people worked or visited.

Reference was made at this point to the number of deliberate fires that had occurred in places where people lived as well as where they worked and visited. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that work was being undertaken by the Service to reduce the number of deliberate fires. This would be reported at a future meeting for information.

Measures 7 and 8 - Occasions where response standards are met for first attendance at dwelling fires and RTCs:

- The Emergency Response Standards (ERS) was the subject of investigation by the Service Delivery Group as this had fallen from 74.14% in 2010/11 to 71.36% in 2011/12. Further information on this would be reported to the Committee in due course.

Measure 9 – community risk profiles had been prepared in preparation for the development of the Local Community Plans in 2012/13.

Measures 10 and 11 – these had not changed since the previous report to the Committee.

The Committee noted that the Service had also been undertaking a lot of work in respect of the number of vehicle accidents including both cars and appliances and that the number of accidents was decreasing at a quicker rate than the number of incidents. In 2011/12 to date, there had been only 27 accidents whilst proceeding to an incident compared to 61 in the same period in 2009/10 and 38 in 2010/11. Personal injuries had been reduced in addition with a 30% reduction over 3 years.

***APRC/25. Audit and Review 2011/12: 3rd Quarter Progress Report**

The Committee received for information a report of the Audit & Review Manager (APRC/12/2) that set out progress against the approved 2011/12 Audit and Review Plan and which provided assurance statements for the audits that had been completed up to December 2011. The report also detailed the key findings of the Hydrant Management and Glastonbury Festival audit reviews.

Martin Gould and Rob Hutchings, representing the Devon Audit Partnership, were present at the meeting and reported upon the work being undertaken in financial systems for the Authority.

***APRC/26. Audit Commission Update Report**

The Committee received for information a report submitted by the Audit Commission. David Bray and Alun Williams, representing the Audit Commission, were at the meeting to present the report to the Committee.

The report covered, amongst other things, an update on the externalisation of the Audit Commission and a summary of the findings of the audit of the 2010/11 accounts.

*** DENOTES DELEGATED AMTTER WTH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.00hours.