

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
(Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority)

13 December 2024

Present:

Councillors Hendy (Chair), Brazil, Fellows, Chesterton, Kerley and Radford

Apologies:

Councillor Best

* **CSC/24/7** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4 September 2024 be signed as a correct record.

* **CSC/24/8** **Strategic Priority 1 and 2 Performance Measures**

Prior to consideration of the performance report as below, the Director of Service Delivery advised the Committee of a recent fire death which had taken place on Friday 29th November 2024. Area Manager Mike Porter provided a succinct overview of the incident which had taken place, advising that this matter was subject to investigation and thus could not be reported upon in depth at this point. Further information would be provided to the Committee as part of the next performance report for quarter 3 of 2024-25.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSC/24/15) to which was appended a performance monitoring report for the second quarter of the current (2024-25) financial year against those Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) falling within the remit of this Committee for scrutiny purposes and aligned to Authority-approved Strategic Priorities 1 and 2.

In summary, the report noted the KPI performance as:

	Succeeding (ü)	Near target (•)	Requires improvement (ü)
Priority 1	15 (+1)	4 (-)	1 (-1)
Priority 2	1 (-)	5 (-)	2 (-)

The KPIs with a status of “needs improvement” were:

- KPI 1.8. Number of persons requiring hospital treatment due to a non-domestic premises fire;
- KPI 2.2. Percentage of level four operational risk sites in date for revalidation; and

- KPI 2.8. Percentage availability of risk dependant pumping appliances.

The report provided a detailed exception report for the three KPIs requiring improvement, explaining the reasons for the exceptions and measures to remediate the performance as follows:

- In terms of KPI 1.8, the number of persons requiring hospital treatment due to a non-domestic premises fire, against a target of 9, was 14. The report noted a 25% increase above the five-year average, however, with performance remained the same as the previous year and the monitoring of this measure would be continued.
- In terms of KPI 2.2, percentage of level four operational risk sites in date for revalidation, the Service had achieved a performance of 85.7% against the target of 96%. As considered at the previous Committee, the measure had been in exception due to all plans having been set with the same revalidation date. The Committee was advised that the reporting had subsequently been updated and as at the 31 October 2024, all level four risk sites were in date for revalidation.
- KPI 2.8, relating to percentage availability of risk dependant pumping appliances reported an actual of 56.8% against a target of 85%. The reported noted the measure had consistently been in exception. Further narrative was provided to the Committee within report CSC/24/26.

The Committee queried KPI 1.18, number of false alarms due to apparatus attended in dwellings. The Director of Service Delivery advised that some of the premises reported would be considered sheltered, self-contained accommodation and therefore, the Service would expect to see multiple alarms within these areas resulting in an increased figure. The Service would continue to take proactive action to review the measure.

In response to a question raised by the Clerk to the Authority in respect of future areas for scrutiny of performance, the Committee requested that a report detailing the position in respect of Emergency Response Standards be submitted to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a). That a report on Emergency Response Standards be submitted to the next meeting; and
- (b). That, subject to (a) above, the report be noted.

* **CSC/24/9** **Risk Dependant Availability Performance and Impact Report**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSC/24/16) outlining the Service's performance on risk dependant availability from October 2023 to September 2024.

The Committee noted the eleven Risk Dependant Availability (RDA) appliances had been second pumps introduced between October 2020 and May 2022, they had been introduced and identified based on area risk, demand, and availability. The appliances were required to be available during night time hours whereby life-risk in dwelling fires is deemed to be greatest, the reporting therefore reflected these hours.

There was a variance of performance across the appliances with higher performance at Okehampton, Honiton and Tiverton, and lower performance at Ilfracombe, Williton and Dartmouth. Due to the assessed prevalent risks in the areas of the lower performing stations, these had not been considered areas of concerns.

The Service's future fire cover review would provide a holistic analysis of the provision of operational resources and would be used to determine future resourcing needs, noting of the 112 Service appliances 99 were on-call. The Committee noted the significant amount of work undertaken on the fire cover review, and that an update would be provided to the Fire & Rescue Authority informally at Members' Forum in January 2025.

The Committee had queried whether a correlation had been identified between operational use and availability. The Service was of the view that the on-call stations were reflective of the demographic of the communities they were located in and, that this could inhibit the ability to recruit as a result.

* **CSC/24/10** **Prevention Road Safety Activity**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSC/24/17) detailing the Service's Community Risk Road Safety Team activity both locally, regionally and nationally. The Service's Road Safety and Community Risk Manager presented the report to the Committee.

The Service recognised the changes in public behaviour, attitudes and vehicle technology which had impacted national response to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).

The Service attended in the region of 850 road traffic collisions (RTCs) per year, which represented only a small proportion of collisions which had taken place as a significant additional number of incidents did not require Service response. Of these attended incidents, the Service attended on average 50 fatalities a year, noting a higher proportion in Devon compared to Somerset. The Service had cited the higher number of rural roads had presented the higher risk. Attention was drawn to paragraph 2.5 of the report which highlighted the false assumption that many RTCs in the Service area were due to the influx of tourism, whereas data would suggest this was not the case.

The Committee made enquiries into the availability of national funding, having noted the funding received through the Vision Zero South West (VZSW) partnership of £150,000. The Service advised that nationally, though the drive to support had been present, monetary funding was not yet available, however, the Service was optimistic that the lobbying activity of VZSW at governmental level may spark change.

The Committee noted the impact of reduced budgets for highways within local government and the potential this could have on road safety. There was a need to focus on 'safe systems' which would require a more holistic overview of incidents with a view to including a review of the road networks, vehicle technology and human behaviour. This would allow the Service to better understand areas of correlation with incidents.

The Committee further noted concerns surrounding RTCs occurring as result of drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Alcohol tended to be an issue with higher age groups whereas drugs was a matter generally relating to younger people and was an area which the Police were addressing. For the Service, alcohol, drugs, inappropriate speed and tiredness remained key areas of concern.

The Service invited the Committee to attend a scheduled Learn2Live event, recognising the profound impact the events had on attendees. The events took place in Devon and Somerset, the dates of which would be shared by the Clerk in due course.

The Committee acknowledged and congratulated the work of the team for their deserved success and recognition through national awards.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.59 am