



CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF POLICY COMMITTEE FRIDAY, 5 MARCH 2010

- PRESENT:** **CHAIRMAN**
Councillor Porley – Middlesbrough Council
- HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillor Payne
- STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillors O'Donnell, Woodhead
- REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**
Councillors Forster, Ovens
- BRIGADE OFFICERS:-**
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Community Protection, Director of Business Development, Head of Planning & Democratic Services,
- PROPER OFFICERS:-**
Legal Adviser, Treasurer
- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Patterson – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

155. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

Councillor Forster declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Agenda 4.4 Fire Control: Agreement between LACC's/LFEPA and Communities & Local Government.

156. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2010

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Policy Meeting held on 8 January 2010 be confirmed.

157. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

157.1 Performance Management Strategy

The Director of Corporate Services stated that on 29 January 2010, Members had approved the Authority's Performance Management Policy, which sets out the Authority's guiding principles for performance management these being to ensure that the Authority is outcome focused and that it impact assesses its work on a regular basis. The Policy will be delivered by the four year Performance Management Strategy which will enhance the Authority's governance arrangements by ensuring that it focuses on the things that matter thereby making sure that the best outcomes are achieved for the people in our communities in light of the somewhat limited resources available. It will also ensure that we build on our existing wide ranging relationships with public, private and voluntary agencies so that we all understand each others strengths and contributions to the wider social agenda and to delivering our extensive community needs.

157.1 Performance Management Strategy (cont)

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted the golden thread of planning from Strategy to delivery and outlined how it will be measured. She then outlined the following key areas which support the strategy:

- Key drivers for the Performance Management Framework
- That the Performance Management and Strategy applies to all employees, managers and Elected Members
- Performance Management Objectives
- Scope
 - Strategic Planning
 - Performance Management
- From Strategy to Delivery
- How We Measure our Performance
- Supporting Good Performance Management
- Improvement Action Plan

Councillor O'Donnell commended Officers on the report especially the monitoring and evaluation procedures that were in place.

RECOMMENDED - that the Performance Management Strategy 2010-2014 be noted.

157.2 Risk Management Policy & Strategy

The Director of Corporate Services informed Members that the Authority has built up a robust and renowned risk management framework which was last reviewed in 2006. She reported that with the introduction of CAA, IRMP and the Governments efficiency agenda, a further review has been undertaken to ensure our structures, systems, processes and measures are aligned to enable the Brigade to continue to deliver better outcomes for local people. This policy is a Statement of Intent and applies to all employees, managers and Elected Members covering both strategic and tactical levels of the organisation and covers the four stages of traditional risk management cycle: Assess; Evaluate; Manage; Measure. Members responsibilities were detailed at page 4 of the Policy.

The Director of Corporate Services outlined the Risk Management Strategy 2010/14 which supports the delivery of the Risk Management Policy and includes an action plan for risk management improvements.

Members congratulated Officers on the clarity of the report and that it was refreshing to see a document of this type that is so clear and easy to understand.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) that the Risk Management Policy be approved at the Fire Authority meeting on 26 March 2010**
- (ii) that the Risk Management Strategy 2010-2014 that will support the delivery of the Policy be noted**

157.3 Draft Service Plan 2010/11 including Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/11 Year 2 Review

The Chief Fire Officer advised Members that the Authority now has only 2 public facing documents; The Five Year Strategic Plan and the Annual Service Plan. The Service Plan sets out its achievements and performance for the previous year, and its priorities and actions to be undertaken to deliver them for the forthcoming year. The Chief Fire Officer highlighted some of the key achievements in 2009/10:

- The introduction of the 'Concept of Operations'
- The Centre of Excellence at Redcar Fire Station
- The installation of Low Cost Suppression Systems in Social Housing
- The development and implementation of planning arrangements and familiarisation processes at Hazardous Installations
- The first phase of our Energy and Environment Strategy
- The submission of the PFI Outline Business Case

The Chief Fire Officer stated that this Authority has achieved real financial savings whilst continuing to improve the services that we deliver. He advised that not only are services being enhanced but performance is also improving with the emphasis on prevention and protection alleviating the pressure from emergency response. The Chief Fire Officer highlighted that arson is down 25% over the last year whilst fire related injuries are also down by 40%. However, regrettably, the number of fire deaths had risen to 5 in the last year. He confirmed that alcohol has been a factor in a number of these fire deaths and that we are striving to alleviate the problem with a zero tolerance for fire deaths. The Chief Fire Officer reported on the challenges facing the Authority and in particular the pressure being placed on public services from central government demanding more for less. He continued by outlining the next steps in delivering further service improvements and efficiencies through the development of a Service Transformation Programme.

Councillor Payne made reference to the Organisational Assessment Scores of Use of Resources, Governing the Business and Managing Resources all of which scored 2 out of 4 and asked what needs to be improved. The Director of Corporate Services stated that two things had influenced the scores, the first being that this was a new audit regime and the bar had been raised in terms of use of resources and the second issue was about discrete indicators around data quality. The Chief Fire Officer added that when compared to other Fire & Rescue Services in the country, Cleveland are fifth or sixth for their Organisational Assessment - only Lancashire secured a score of 4.

RECOMMENDED:- That the following recommendations be presented to the Fire Authority meeting on 26 March 2010:

157.3 Draft Service Plan 2010/11 including Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/11 Year 2 Review (cont)

RECOMMENDED:- That the following recommendations be presented to the Fire Authority meeting on 26 March 2010:

- (i) that the Authority's draft Service Plan 2010/11 which incorporates the Draft IRMP 2008/11 Year 2 Review be approved**
- (ii) that the new proposal to deliver further service improvements and efficiencies through the development of a service transformation programme be noted and that regular progress reports on the development of this proposal be brought to future Fire Authority meetings**
- (iii) that, in line with the Fire Authority's decision on 30 January 2009, it be agreed that no further consultation will be undertaken on the IRMP 2008/11. However appropriate consultation will take place with stakeholders on the development and implementation of any proposals included within the Service Plan 2010/11**
- (iv) that it be noted that the Service Plan 2010/11 incorporating the IRMP Year 2 Review will be published in April 2010**

157.4 Fire Control: Agreement between LACC's/LFEPA and Communities & Local Government

The Director of Business Development updated Members with regard to formal consultation being carried out CLG regarding the Fire Control Project who were seeking the views of the Authority with regard to the outcomes, approach and timings for an agreement between the LACC, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and CLG. He outlined the five questions and informed Members that the deadline for responses was Friday 5 March 2010. The Director of Business Development highlighted the response from the Chief Fire Officer to the consultation (Appendix 2) which included a caveat that Policy and CFA Members may supplement this response with their comments

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that responses were also being prepared by the RMB and LACC Board and that all three had a very similar view and the responses reflected that.

Councillor Ovens agreed with the concerns raised regarding the back up facility regarding answering calls from other areas.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) that the publication of FSC 73/2009 and report be noted**
- (ii) that members wished to make no further comments**
- (iii) that the report be presented to the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting on 26 March 2010**

158 REPORT OF THE TREASURER**158.1 Review of Charges 2010-2011**

The Treasurer outlined the way in which the Brigades Scale of Charges is currently structured and that due to the humanitarian nature of most of the services provided by the Fire Authority and which, by stature, we are obliged to provide free of charge, there is only limited opportunity to expand the real sources of income generation. He advised there are also legal constraints placed on the Authority from levying charges for special services above the amount of full cost recovery.

The Treasurer reported that each element of discretionary services provided by the Brigade for which a charge is to be made during 2010/11 has, therefore been assessed separately in the interests of public safety, revenue maximisation and compliance with the Act. He confirmed that the estimated combined effects of the revised charges would be to increase the Brigade's budgeted income by approximately £4,457 (an average of 1.34%).

Councillor Payne asked for details of the costs being charged by the Brigade for provision of services outside of normal fire cover during the Tall Ships Event. The Chief Fire Officer reported that they had submitted their charges for additional services to the Project Group which he believed to be circa £20,000.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) that the charges to take effect from 1 April 2010 as set out in Appendices 1 and 3 of the Report, under the Chief Officers Delegation Scheme be noted.**

**COUNCILLOR PETER PORLEY
CHAIRMAN**