

Fire Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday 21 April 2022

Time: 14:00 – 14:43

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters

Present: Councillors Gardener, Kindersley (Chair), McGuire, Rae and Taylor

27. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Councillors Gowing and McGuire.

28. Minutes – 12 January 2022 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. The action log was noted.

29. IRMP Performance Measures

The Committee received a report which reviewed the service's progress over a four-year period using risk modelling, data from the national risk register and business delivery risks. It highlighted potential initiatives to mitigate weaknesses. The presenting officer drew attention to the operational performance of the service where urban response times were 90 seconds quicker than the measure and 3 seconds quicker than the previous year. That was set against a backdrop of increased number of calls. Rural attendance continued to be affected by the difficulty in pinpointing the exact locations of incidents. An increase in the number of fire deaths was reported together with an increase in the number of KSIs (Killed or Seriously Injured) on the roads.

During discussion Members:

- Requested that the year be included on the bar charts and trend data be included within the report. **Action.**
- Noted that the data for the number of KSIs on the roads was provided by the police and it therefore may not be possible to separate the number of people killed from the numbers of seriously injured. The increase in numbers was most likely due to traffic levels returning to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sought further information regarding partnership working with mental health services while noting the increase in suicide and attempted suicides. Officers explained that such partnership working was not generally undertaken. Attendance at such incidents was only at the request of the ambulance service. Officers suggested the level of assistance provided to partners as a piece of scrutiny for the Committee to consider as part of its work programme. There was potentially an impact on the fire service's ability to respond to incidents if it was being called upon increasingly to respond on behalf of other agencies. Staff were not paid to attend medical

emergencies and could only do so voluntarily. Work was ongoing with the ambulance service in order to ensure they understand how the fire service could provide support. A memorandum of understanding had been entered into with the ambulance service and it was offering to provide training and take up wages which would be shared with the Committee. **Action.**

- Noted that where the service attends road traffic accidents that were out of county were not included within the report. Attendance was measured irrespective of which service attended the incident.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note the contents of the performance report.

30. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority Cyber Security Update

The Committee received a report outlining the risks and mitigations in relation to cyber security within the Authority which had increased as a result of the pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine. Internal and external review had determined the Authority had good cyber security and recommendations made were being incorporated by the ICT shared service staff.

During discussion Members:

- Welcomed the report and commented that the approach taken by the service was robust and rigorous and more so than other services. Officers commented that that the service was proactive in its approach to cyber security and ran regular penetration tests. A recent audit highlighted measures that could have been undertaken, however, they needed to be balanced against the risk to the organisation.
- Noted that there were still occasions where staff were unwittingly falling prey to phishing attacks through their email.
- Noted that ID cards were the responsibility of the card holder.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note the contents of this report and make comments deemed appropriate.

31. Member-led Review of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority Consultation with Representative Bodies

This item was deferred.

32. Internal Audit Plan 2022/23

The Committee received the Internal Audit Plan 2022/23 which had been developed through analysis of priorities, risk profile and assurance framework.

During discussion:

- A review was requested of ICOSA system. It was suggested that when a trigger point had been reached during the implementation of the system, Internal Audit were invited to review the implementation.

It was resolved to:

Note the contents of the report.

33. Internal Audit Progress Report

The Committee received the Internal Audit progress report that measured progress against the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22. The presenting officer informed the Committee that the key financial controls audit had been completed and the draft report provided a positive audit opinion. The training centre and risk audit were both underway and there was nothing significant to report to the Committee.

In response to Members' questions, officers explained:

- With regard to the payroll audit of the sample selected 2 were internal transfers and Member noted that it had no impact on the audit.

It was resolved to:

Note the contents of the report.

34. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

The Committee resolved unanimously to note its work programme.

Chair