



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 25 January 2019

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor D O'Donovan (in the Chair), G Almas, P Harrand, J Hughes, R Hunt, J Lennox, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, A Tait and A Wenham

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor C Pillai

25 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 October 2018 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

26 Urgent items – fire fatalities

Members were given a verbal update about the recent tragic incidences of four fatal fires which had occurred between 25 December and 5 January 2019.

[The Chair had agreed to add the item on the grounds of urgency that this had been the first appropriate opportunity to report any detail to Members].

27 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

28 Declarations of interest

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

29 Primary Authority scheme – update

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which provided Members with an update on the statutory Primary Authority scheme with a view to providing consistent fire safety advice to businesses in West Yorkshire.

It was reported that, since February 2014 when approval was given by this Committee to active participation in the scheme, 21 partnerships had been developed and this Authority was the first Fire Authority nationally to issue 'assured advice' under the scheme. The scheme had also been extended to incorporate explosives licensing.

Members were advised that the scheme was now fully embedded into the work of the Fire Protection department through the Business Support Team and opportunities were being explored whereby partners could be shared with other regulatory bodies in West Yorkshire. Work carried out for partners was done on a cost recovery basis with charges subject to an annual review.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That Members be provided with detail of relevant costs to demonstrate that the primary authority work by the Business Support Team continued to be provided on a cost recovery basis; and
- c) That future reports on the Primary Authority Scheme be submitted on an annual basis.

30 Service Delivery “Spotlight On” case studies

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery submitted a report which provided examples of the following areas of work which were being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities in West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity;

- Calderdale roadshow – Members had been circulated with additional information on Operation Hawmill
- Targeted youth intervention days

Members were further updated by the Youth Interventions Team Manager about a new area of work that was being undertaken in partnership with the Prince's Trust which would be the subject of future reports to this Committee.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

31 Grenfell Tower – update

Members received a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which provided an update on the various issues linked to the fire at Grenfell Tower, London on 14 June 2017.

It was reported that the first phase of the public enquiry had concluded and a Government document had been issued (Building a Safer Future) in response to the Dame Judith Hackitt report into building regulations and fire safety.

Members were advised that the second phase of the public enquiry would focus on critical circumstances and decisions relating to the fire but was not due to start before the end of 2019. No recommendations had yet been forthcoming from the first phase although trial of a new regulatory framework had been

announced which would draw on the expertise of the Health and Safety Executive, Local Authority Building Control, the Fire and Rescue Service (through the National Fire Chiefs' Council) and the Local Government Association.

It was not yet possible to quantify the specific impact on West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) of forthcoming changes in regulation and regime although work was currently being undertaken to examine the way in which WYFRS currently delivered its fire protection responsibilities.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That future reports be submitted to this Committee as appropriate.

32 Attacks on firefighters working group – update

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which updated Members on the progress of recommendations to improve the safety of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service staff through the work of the Attacks on firefighters working group established following a meeting of this Committee in January 2017.

The working group was tasked with the responsibility to implement seven specific recommendations made by this Committee at its meeting held on 30 June 2017 as follows;

- Establishment of a memorandum of understanding with West Yorkshire Police (WYP) specifically around attacks on firefighters
- Policy changes to ensure correct recording of attacks to maximise the chances of prosecution of perpetrators
- Implementation of District arrangements with WYP to ensure arrangements were in place to minimise attacks
- Consideration to be given to a trial of body worn cameras in specific station areas
- Delivery of threat assessment training
- Agreement of Bonfire Plans with Leeds and Bradford councils by 30 September each year, and
- Implementation of a specific media strategy to ensure appropriate reporting of attacks in the media

It was reported that all the recommendations had been completed or were embedded into normal business practice with the exception of the introduction of body-worn cameras which had been removed from the project following consideration by the Authority's Executive Committee in November 2017 pending receipt of further evidence about the impact of body-worn cameras in the reduction of violence against the Fire and Rescue Service.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted, and
- b) That future reports that had previously been undertaken by the Attacks on Firefighters working group be submitted as appropriate on specific request from this Committee.

Chair