



**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
11 JUNE 2019**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR N H PEPPER (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors A N Stokes (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, K J Clarke, Mrs K Cook, Mrs C J Lawton, C R Oxby, A H Turner MBE JP, L Wootten and R Wootten

Councillors: R D Butroid, L A Cawrey, Mrs S Woolley, C N Worth and B Young attended the meeting as observers.

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Baxter (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), (Bev Finnegan (Programme Manager), Nicole Hilton (Assistant Director - Communities), Andrew McLean (Transformation Director), Dan Quinn (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer), Sean Taylor (Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue) and, Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2019

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

There were no announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors or Chief Officers.

5 FIRE AND RESCUE - 18/19 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

10:08 Councillor K Cook entered the meeting.

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Consideration was given to a report by the Area Manager – Planning, Prevention and Protection, which provided an overview of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue's (LFR) performance for 2018/19.

It was noted that LFR had received an overall rating of good by the Her Majesties Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Officers were pleased with the positive performance of the service for 2018/19.

The Area Manager – Planning Prevention and Protection, outlined LFR's key performance information for 2018/19, as well as providing an outline of the Training and Development exercises completed in 2018/19.

Members were referred to Annexe A of the report for a list of LFR's Outcomes and Targets for 2018/19.

Members were invited to ask questions, in which the following points were noted:

- It was clarified that in the case of false calls, a call challenge system had been implemented which would save valuable time and resource which was spent responding to false incidents. The call challenge system aimed to call the location to verify that the incident was genuine before sending out a respondent. It was possible to issue fines to those repeat offenders of false calling.
- There were certain high risk locations in which the call challenge system would not be implemented, such as hospitals. In those instances, response vehicles would be issued immediately.
- It was noted that there was a divisional plan in place which involved working with farmers, farming communities and other key partners to communicate the dangers of hot summers and educate on how to reduce the risk of grassland fires.
- It was explained that officers had a legal responsibility for any unregistered Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) once they had been made aware of them. As part of prevention activities, officers exchanged information with key partners which helped to locate unregistered HMO's in order to implement measures to reduce incidents in those locations.
- Officers agreed to provide details of the number of HMO's that LFR were aware of and had been categorised.
- There had been positive feedback from the Elected Member visits to local fire stations for the annual inspections, which had been beneficial for both Members and officers.
- It was noted that the number of malicious calls had significantly reduced, however officers continued to work with schools and colleges to educate pupils on the consequences of false calls.
- Officers agreed to provide members with information on the number of female firefighters employed by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.
- Members were informed that the recruitment department were actively looking into ways in which they could diversify the recruitment of firefighters, which

included investigating possible reasons why people were opposed to becoming a firefighter.

- It was clarified the Medical Response Programme had made a significant difference on the time it took a responder to reach those that needed urgent care.
- LFR were investigating the possibility of introducing 'what3words', which was a form of technology that could provide the location of a person using a mobile phone app. It was hoped that this could help locate individuals who did not know their location.
- It was explained that for incidents where a large number of fire engines were dispatched to a location, it would trigger a response to dispatch other emergency responders to the incident.
- It was highlighted that LFR staff were trained at the international training site in Waddington, which was used as a training location for Fire and Rescue Services nationally.

The committee congratulated Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue for their performance throughout 2018/19, and thanked officers for their hard work and dedication.

On behalf of LFR, Mark Baxter (Assistant Chief Fire Officer) thanked Lincolnshire County Council for their ongoing support to the service.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6 ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITY ANNUAL REVIEW 2018/19

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Community Engagement, which provided an overview of council-wide consultation and engagement activity where the Community Engagement Team had provided advice and support in 2018/19.

It was explained that the Community Engagement Team provided support and advice to officers across service areas, as well as to elected Members on the planning and delivery of effective and legally sound engagement or consultation activities.

The report set out a number of ways in which the Community Engagement Team provided support, as well as a summary of the key findings from engagement activities.

Members were referred to Appendix A, B and C of the report, which set out the differences between communication, engagement and consultation; a review of engagement and consultation activity in 2018/19; and the Quality Assurance Process followed by the team when an engagement activity is started.

Members were invited to ask questions, in which the following points were noted:

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- It was explained that service areas were advised about the difference between consultation and engagement, and about being clear when something couldn't be influenced.
- The Community Engagement Team worked closely with service areas to ensure that the purpose of any engagement was made clear before the process was undertaken, as well as communicating the outcomes once the process had ended.
- It was clarified that there was no requirement for the service areas to record the percentage of the target audience who had responded to consultations. The Community Engagement Team received quality impact assessments from all consultations.
- Community Engagement Team Officers were continuously looking at ways to improve its service and responses to engagement activities, including how to engage with all age groups.
- The Assistant Director – Communities explained there was often a high response to engagement through social media platforms, but these were not currently included as part of formal consultation responses. Officers were investigating whether there were ways to include social media feedback as part of the consultation process.
- It was agreed that Step 6 of the Quality Assurance Process, attached at Appendix C of the report, be amended to replace the sentence, 'check if local councillor needs to be notified' with 'confirm that local councillor(s) have been informed'.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That Step 6 of the Quality Assurance Process, attached at Appendix C of the report, be amended to replace the sentence, 'check if local councillor needs to be notified' with 'confirm that local councillor(s) have been informed'.

7 PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer presented the committee's prospective work programme.

Members were informed that the July meeting of the committee would be held at the Emergency Planning Centre on South Park. A tour of the new Fire and Rescue Station was planned for after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That members were satisfied with the work programme.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm