

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

HELD ON 23rd APRIL 2015

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Lynda Byrne, Jim Dawson, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen, Bernard Judge, Afia Kamal, Iain Lindley, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Brian Rigby, Michael Smith, Stella Smith, Fred Walker, Paul Wild, Steve Williams, George Wilson and Michael Whetton

Also in Attendance: Steve McGuirk (County Fire Officer & Chief Executive), Donna Hall (Clerk to the Authority, Wigan Council), Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director of Resources, Wigan Council), Jim Owen (Deputy County Fire Officer), Paul Argyle (Director of Emergency Response), Alyson Hall (Director of People and Organisation Development), Andrea Heffernan (Head of Finance and Technical Services), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Basil Curley, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Barrie Holland, Alan Matthews and Lisa Walker.

87. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor John O'Brien and Fred Walker had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person to participate but not vote at meetings of GMFRA and any joint committees in matters relating to collaboration and partnership working with local authorities involving a contractual relationship between the Authority and their district council. This related to 'Minute 99 – Wigan Community and Fire and Ambulance Station'.
2. Councillor David Acton and Fred Walker had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person to participate and vote at meetings of GMFRA and any joint committees in matters relating to North West Fire Control Limited. This was granted on the grounds that Councillors David Acton and Fred Walker had been appointed Directors of the company to represent GMFRA. Without the dispensation the Members with the most knowledge would be unable to contribute to the consideration of

contracts relating to the company. This related to 'Minute 100 – North West Fire Control.

89. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

90. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman reminded Members to complete their Disclosure Requirement on Related Party Transactions for the Statement of Accounts 2014/15 and return to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.
2. The Chairman informed Members that the contract between GMFRS and Kier for the new Bury Training Site was agreed on 22nd April 2015. The Sod-Cutting Ceremony was due to take place on Monday 18th May 2015 at 1.30pm at the site.
3. The Chairman advised Members that a Hearing was held on 10th April 2015 at Manchester Crown Court where charges against a teenage girl accused of starting a fire at Paul's Hair World in Oldham Street, Manchester, were dropped. The Crown Prosecution Service was no longer proceeding with the charge of arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered. The 16-year-old girl was due to stand trial on Monday 13th April 2015, in relation to the fire, which claimed the life of Firefighter Stephen Hunt on 13th July 2013. The judge would now hand the file over to the coroner who would resume the inquest into Stephen's death at the earliest opportunity.
5. The Chairman informed Members that Peter O'Reilly, Assistant County Fire Officer Director of Prevention and Protection, had been appointed as the new County Fire Officer and Chief Executive. This appointment had been made by the Policy Standing Sub-Committee on 19th February 2015.
6. The Chairman informed Members that Geoff Harris, Area Manager and Head of Transformation had been appointed to Assistant County Fire Officer and Director of Prevention and Protection. This appointment had been made by the Policy Standing Sub-Committee on 31st March 2015.
7. The Chairman announced that Councillor George Wilson would be standing down as a Salford Councillor at the forthcoming local Elections on 7th May 2015 and he took the opportunity to thank Councillor George Wilson for all the time and commitment he had given to Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA) over the years. Councillor George Wilson was one of GMFRA's longest standing Members, with 16 years' service in total.

8. The Chairman advised Members that the following five fire stations were being used as Polling Stations in the forthcoming local and general elections on 7th May 2015:-
- Agecroft (Salford)
 - Hindley (Wigan)
 - Rochdale (Rochdale)
 - Offerton (Stockport)
 - Stalybridge (Tameside)
9. The Chairman took the opportunity to wish all Members good luck in the forthcoming local elections and thanked all Members for their time and commitment they had given to GMFRA over the past 12 months.
10. The Chairman informed Members that this would be County Fire Officer and Chief Executive, Steve McGuirk's last meeting as he was due to retire from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) on 15th June, 2015. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Steve for all the hard work and commitment he had given to both GMFRS and nationally over his years' service and wished him all the best on his retirement and his new role as Chairman of the Warrington and Halton Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor John Bell, Deputy Chairman and Leader of the Conservative Party, Councillor Derek Heffernan, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, Councillor Steve Williams and Councillor Fred Walker also took the opportunity to speak on this item.

Steve McGuirk thanked Members for their kind words and took the opportunity to speak on his time within the Service.

91. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

92. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2015 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 26th February 2015 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 26th February 2015, be approved.

93. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2015 OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 12th March 2015 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 12th March 2015, be approved.

94. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 2015 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 26th March 2015 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 26th March 2015, be approved.

95. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION: 10-11 MARCH 2015 - FEEDBACK

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided feedback from the 'LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition' which took place on 10th and 11th March 2015 in Gateshead. This event brought together all the Chief Fire Officers and senior Fire Authority Members from across the country to talk about the key issues of the day and to think about how together these challenges could be tackled.

This year's conference provided a range of workshops and plenaries on subjects including key priorities in the next Parliament for the fire and rescue service, the next Spending Review, people and inclusive leadership, Fire Service reform and the independent review of terms and conditions. As part of the conference the Chairman of the Authority and the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive hosted a workshop on 'Creating Healthy Communities' which introduced the Community Risk Intervention Team's Pilot and explored the lessons learnt as well as the benefits of collaboration and was well received by all attendees.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Penny Mordaunt MP, was in attendance, and announced that regulations requiring all private sector landlords to install smoke alarms and in some circumstances carbon monoxide detectors, would be laid before this Parliament ended.

Resolved: That the content of the report, be noted.

96. PENSIONS DISPUTE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the pension dispute and outlined the impact of availability of fire appliances within GMFRS due to 'Action Short of Strike' (ASOS) called by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). The report also provided average response time data for first appliances during the period April 2014 to February 2015.

Members were advised that during the latest strike on the 25th to 26th February 2015, 26 appliances including three resilience appliances, one

Water Incident Unit and one Hydraulic Platform Vehicle were available. In addition, there were 34 officers either in cars, on appliances or at North West Fire Control/Command Support Room. A total of 124 calls were received (17 of which were duplicates) and the Emergency Fire Crews attended 78 incidents. As well as a number of fires, these incidents included a hazardous material incident and a serious Road Traffic Collision which necessitated a rescue as well as causing a severe gas leak requiring a 50 metre area to be cordoned off. On conclusion of the latest period of strike action, ASOS recommenced, however, the Additional Hours element was removed from the ASOS limitations. This had meant that all 56 pumps were now 'on the run' for nearly every shift and the new crewing year had re-commenced from 1st April 2015.

No further strike dates had been called with the FBU indicating that they were continuing to pursue their desired outcomes. However, the threat of industrial action still remained.

In addition, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive advised that the April 2015 edition of the '*FIRE Magazine*' had included a seven page article on 'Greater Manchester: working at the strongest end of collaboration' including an interview from Peter O'Reilly on his role as the new County Fire Officer of GMFRS and an interview from the Director of Emergency Response on 'Future Firefighting' detailing how the service could move forward to meet the constantly changing demands of the future.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The policy decisions previously adopted by the Authority, (Minute 64 Resolution 2 – County Guard Update on 12th December 2014 refers) be noted.
3. The Authority commend the activities undertaken in order to mitigate the risks associated with Industrial Action.

97. FIREFIGHTERS' PENSIONS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on changes to the Firefighter's Pension Scheme which came into effect on 1st April 2015 following the recommendations by Lord Hutton in his review of Public Sector Pension Schemes.

Members were advised that prior to the introduction of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 (referred to as the 2015 Scheme) there were already two firefighter pension schemes in place, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 (known as the 1992 Scheme) and the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 (known as the 2006 Scheme). The implications of the review meant that Members of the 1992 Scheme who were over the age of 45 on 1st April 2012

would remain in the 1992 Scheme and be known as a 'Protected Member'. However, Members aged between 41 and 45 on 1st April 2012, would move into the 2015 Scheme on what was known as a tapered date. These Members would be known as a 'Tapered Member'. Any individuals under the age of 41 would be automatically moved into the 2015 Scheme on 1st April 2015 and known as 'Unprotected Members'.

Any costs/savings arising out of the introduction of the new Scheme would be contingent on the number of Members who join the Scheme and subject to future actuarial assessments undertaken by the Government.

Resolved: That the content of the report and comments raised, be noted.

98. PENSIONS BOARD - FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised on the requirements to establish a Pension Board, to set out the proposed structure of a Pension Board for the Firefighters' Pension Scheme and sought approval to establish a Pension Board.

Members were advised that the Public Services Pension Act 2013 (the Act) enshrined many of the reforms of public service pension schemes that were recommended following the independent review of public service pension schemes led by Lord Hutton. The Act contained a section concerned with governance of public sector pension schemes, Regulation 4 of the Pension Regulations assigned the Fire Authority as the Scheme Manager for each of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. As Scheme Manager, the Fire Authority was responsible for the management and administration of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. To meet the requirements of the regulations it was proposed to establish a small Pension Board at the outset with an opportunity at a later stage to increase the number of representatives if appropriate. Therefore, it was recommended that the Pension Board should initially be comprised of a Member of the Fire Authority and an Officer to represent the employer and a Union Official from the Fire Brigades Union and Fire Officers Association to represent the employee.

Two guidance documents entitled 'Public Service Pension Boards' and 'Public Sector Pension Board Members' published by the Pensions Regulator was attached at Appendix A and B of the report for information.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The responsibility for fulfilling the role of Scheme Manager be delegated to the Director of People and Organisation Development.
3. A Pension Board be established to assist the Scheme Manager in securing compliance with the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations and associated legislation and guidance, entitled 'Public

Service Pension Boards' and 'Public Sector Pension Board Members' as detailed at Appendix A and B of the report.

4. The Chairman of the Authority and Deputy County Fire Officer be appointed as an Employer representatives of the Pensions Board.

99. WIGAN COMMUNITY FIRE AND AMBULANCE STATION

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised on the progress which had been made towards designing and building a joint Fire and Ambulance Hub Station on the current site of Wigan Fire Station. The report sought support from the Authority to progress the development of a full business case and project plan for delivery.

Members were advised that a multi-agency project board had been established to consider the options for the development of a joint fire and ambulance hub on the site. The preferred option was to progress with the design and delivery of a joint fire and ambulance hub with GMFRS bearing all associated capital costs. The North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) contribution towards capital costs would be recovered through a legally binding agreement over a period of 30 years.

The current site footprint would not accommodate all the requirements and it would be necessary to acquire the vacant land to the South West of the site that was currently owned by Wigan Council. Discussions to resolve the basis on which the vacant land was acquired were being progressed by financial leads from NWAS, Wigan Council and GMFRS. A copy of the site and proposed building plans were detailed at Appendix A and B of the report, for Members' reference.

A Member requested that the appointment of apprentices from the local community should be included in the final contract. In response, the Head of Finance and Technical Services advised that the North West Construction Hub would be used to select a contractor and this factor would be included the same as with similar projects.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report, comments raised and progress to date, be noted.
2. Further work to develop a full business case and project plan to be approved by the Authority and North West Ambulance Service Board, be approved.

100. NORTH WEST FIRE CONTROL

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which detailed the governance and contractual arrangements

relating to North West Fire Control (NWFC) and provided an up to date position following 'Go-Live' in May 2014.

Members were advised that NWFC had recently accepted the control and mobilising system as having been delivered by Telent in accordance with the supply contract and the contract had now moved to its maintenance phase. The four Fire and Rescue Authorities, namely, Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester had already entered into individual Services Agreements with NWFC. The final contractual document to be concluded was the Co-operation agreement between all the Authorities which would govern the relationship between the Authorities after 'Go-Live' and replace the Project Agreement. Whilst the company was not a party to the Co-operation Agreement it would benefit from the Authorities working well together. A copy of the Co-operation Agreement was detailed at Appendix A of the report, for information.

As part of its scrutiny function, the Authority's Audit Scrutiny & Standards Committee had received regular updates on Development Goal DV15 – Provide a new technical solution for the delivery of our control (999) service prioritising opportunities for regional collaboration in the interests of public value.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The completion of the North West Fire Control Project, be noted.
3. The intention to enter in the Co-operation Agreement, as detailed at Appendix A of the report, be noted.

101. INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE PLAN 2015-18

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented and sought approval of the Service's Integrated Risk Management and Corporate Plan 2015-18.

Members were reminded that the content of the draft 2015-18 Corporate Plan was considered at a meeting of the Authority on 4th December 2014 (Minute 68 refers). Following internal and external consultation the final Plan had been graphically designed and amended without significant revision to the content. The main changes were to the introduction which now included reference to the Service's role in Greater Manchester's devolution and broader collaboration and integration with partners in community risk reduction. The Plan also contained the updated engagement principles following public consultation and 2015-16 performance measures and targets. The 2015-18 Plan incorporated the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), the production of which was a statutory requirement under the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework. Following feedback from external

stakeholders the Plan introduced the Service's new engagement principles identifying how GMFRS would engage with its communities and stakeholders on future changes to service delivery. The associated policy and procedure was approved by the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee on 26th March 2015 (Minute 65 refers) and provided more detail on this process.

The Chairman on behalf of the Authority took the opportunity to thank the Deputy County Fire Officer and his team for all their hard-work and commitment in producing the Service's Integrated Risk Management and Corporate Plan 2015-18.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The changes to the introduction, the engagement principles and performance measures of the Integrated Risk Management and Corporate Plan 2015-18, as detailed at paragraphs 12 to 16 of the report, be noted.
3. The Integrated Risk Management and Corporate Plan 2015-18, be approved.

CHAIRMAN