

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
AUTHORITY**

HELD ON 13th OCTOBER 2016

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Basil Curley, Chris Goodwin, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Joan Grimshaw, James Grundy, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Afia Kamal, Iain Lindley, Mike Hurleston, Jan Jackson, John O'Brien, Brian Rigby, Noel Spencer, Peter Taylor, Fred Walker, Steve Williams and Michael Whetton

Also in Attendance: Peter O'Reilly (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), Paul Argyle (Deputy County Fire Officer), Tony Clarke (Assistant Director - Finance, Wigan Council), Geoff Harris (Director of Prevention and Protection), Andrea Heffernan (Director of Corporate Support), Dave Keelan (Director of Emergency Response), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Shelley Wright (Director of Communications and Engagement) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Coen, Alan Matthews, Shaun O'Neill and Paul Wild.

48. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

50. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

51. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman advised Members that the meeting of the Fire Authority was going to be 'live streamed' and would be available to the public via YouTube to watch either live or retrospectively.
2. The Chairman invited all Members to attend the 'Greater Manchester Safe Drive Stay Alive 2016 VIP Performance' on Thursday 24th November 2016 at The Middleton Arena. Safe Drive Stay Alive was

funded by the Greater Manchester Casualty Reduction Partnership, and was a hard hitting, theatre based performance aiming to demonstrate to young people the dangers of risk taking on the roads. All Members were encouraged to attend.

3. The Chairman advised Members that a 'Steel Signing Ceremony' would be taking place at the new Wigan Joint Fire and Ambulance Station on Friday 14th October 2016 at 11.30am. Representatives from the North West Ambulance Service, Councillor Fred Walker, Wigan Fire Authority Member and the Mayor and Mayoress of Wigan Council would be attending the ceremony.
4. The Chairman advised Members that Capita would be hosting a Training Session titled 'Treasury Management' on Thursday 1st December 2016 at 12.00noon at the rise of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee which all Members were encouraged to attend.
5. The Chairman invited all Members to attend the Passing-Out Event for the new Firefighter Recruits on Thursday 15th December 2016 at 1.00pm at the Training and Development Centre, Manchester.

52. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

53. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2016 OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 22nd September 2016 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 22nd September 2016, be approved.

54. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER 2016 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 29th September 2016 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Councillor Michael Whetton, Chairman of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee encouraged Members to read 'Minute 12 – Verbal Update on the Construction of the Operational Training Site'.

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 29th September 2016, be approved.

55. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 6TH OCTOBER 2016 OF POLICY, RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 6th October 2016 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 6th October 2016, be approved.

56. UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED SHIFT DUTY SYSTEM (SDS12)

The Chairman advised that GMFRS Representatives had attended a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) meeting with members of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) on Thursday 29th September 2016, in a bid to reach agreement on the implementation of a new shift duty system proposal known as SDS12.

TAP was a mechanism offered by the National Joint Council to help broker agreement when none could be found at a local level. The meeting was chaired by an independent member of the panel who listened to all information put forward on the topic and then provided a written report which assessed the preferred shift system against the four guiding principles outlined in the 'grey book'. A copy of the report detailing the outcomes from TAP was circulated to Members' prior to the meeting for consideration.

The Chairman advised that he remained committed to reaching an agreement on the implementation of SDS12 with the FBU.

Resolved: That the findings of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) report, be accepted.

57. HALLOWEEN COSTUMES CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided a summary of the outline arrangements for the 'GMFRS Halloween Costumes Campaign' as part of the 2016 Treacle campaign.

Members were advised that Children's Halloween costumes and other seasonal/themed costumes were currently classified as toys and were not subject to the rigorous standards of fire retardancy required of some other children's clothing. GMFRS were supporting the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) by campaigning for the reclassification of children's dressing up costumes as clothes and not as toys. GMFRS would also be raising awareness of the dangers of these children's costumes, especially around specific events such as Halloween and bonfire night. The safety messages would be promoted by using a broad range of communication channels including regional and local media, digital and social networks.

The update on the 'Halloween Costumes Campaign' was a request from Councillor June Hitchen at the last meeting of the Authority on 8th September 2016 (Minute 43 refers).

Councillor June Hitchen welcomed the informative report and the work that GMFRS were undertaking to support the Chief Fire Officers Association's call on government to change legislation and reclassify children's dressing up outfits as clothes and not toys.

Members had a detailed discussion on the campaign and how this could be further supported. It was suggested that the Chairman on the behalf of the Authority write to the Home Secretary to seek support on a call on government to change legislation and reclassify children's dressing up outfits as clothes and not toys. Also, to write to Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Federation advising them of 'GMFRS Halloween Costume Campaign' and seeking support.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Chairman on behalf of the Authority write to the Home Secretary to seek support on a call on government to change legislation and reclassify children's dressing up outfits as clothes and not toys.
3. The Chairman on behalf of the Authority write to Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Federation to advise them of the 'GMFRS Halloween Costume Campaign' and to seek support in the Campaign.
4. GMFRS continue to support the Chief Fire Officers Association's call on government to change legislation and reclassify children's dressing up outfits as clothes and not toys.
5. The 'GMFRS Halloween Costumes Campaign' as part of the 2016 Treacle Campaign be supported and promoted by Fire Authority Members' within their respective Local Authorities.

58. CARDIAC ARREST RESPONSE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the GMFRS response to cardiac arrests in support of the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and the development of key supporting elements of the survival academy network.

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive advised that a Cost Benefit Analysis on GMFRS cardiac response had identified gross fiscal savings to the public purse of £5,188,000 over five years. This represented a cost benefit ratio of 1:6, therefore, for every £1 invested, £6 was saved.

It was reported that Firefighters across Greater Manchester had been mobilised to incidents of cardiac arrests on behalf of NWS since 15th September 2015. Further work was currently being developed to train and equip GMFRS Flexi Duty Officers to respond to cardiac arrest incidents. The mobilisation of firefighters to cardiac arrests was currently through the placement of staff on modified duties within NWS Emergency Operational Control. This would continue until the implementation of Direct Electronic Information Transfer was achieved that would allow for direct system to system communication and mobilisation. Formal feedback mechanisms had also been put in place which enabled crews to assist in identifying issues and influencing improvement across a range of issues such as provision of Personal Protective Equipment, welfare support and general response enquiries. In addition a range of bespoke guidance documents had been produced to support crews in their attendance.

Restart a Heart Day was taking place on Tuesday 18th October 2016 and in association with NWS and the British Heart Foundation GMFRS crews, staff and volunteers would be going out to schools and colleges across Greater Manchester to help create a nation of lifesavers. Building on the success of last year's Restart a Heart Day two sessions had been arranged to provide the opportunity for staff to learn hands-on CPR skills.

Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood requested further information on firefighter welfare and the resources which had been implemented to support them when responding to cardiac arrests. In response, the Deputy County Fire Officer advised that a Health and Wellbeing Support Team had been created and a number of protocols were in place to support all staff which included Trauma Risk Incident Management, Employee Assistance Programme, Chaplain Service and regular 1:1 briefing sessions.

Councillor Peter Taylor referred to the response data provided by NWS which illustrated performance and requested that these figures were also recorded separately by GMFRS on all incidents attended by fire crews.

Members welcomed the informative report and Councillor Fred Walker requested that a press release be issued to highlight the good work that was taking place across Greater Manchester in partnership with NWS.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. A press release be issued to highlight the good work that was taking place across Greater Manchester in partnership with NWS.
3. Future Performance data figures be recorded by GMFRS on all incidents attended by fire crews.
4. The continued development of GMFRS' approach to improve cardiac outcomes, be supported.

59. PENSION BOARD FIREFIGHTERS' PENSIONS SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented the Pension Board Firefighters' Pensions Scheme Annual report which advised on the current duties and actions taken by the Local Pension Board in 2015/16.

It was reported that this was the first annual report of the Local Pension Board for the Greater Manchester Firefighter Pension Scheme which was constituted as part of changes introduced by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. It was the intention that the annual report would be used to inform the 'Scheme Manager' (i.e. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority) of the work undertaken by the Local Pension Board.

Resolved: That the work of the Local Pension Board for 2015/16, be noted.

CHAIRMAN