

**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GM POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
HELD ON MONDAY 20 JULY 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Nadim Muslim	Bolton Council
Councillor Nigel Murphy	Manchester City Council – (In the Chair)
Councillor Steve Williams	Oldham Council
Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford City Council
Councillor Amanda Peers	Stockport Council
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Andy Burnham	GM Mayor
Baroness Beverley Hughes	GM Deputy Mayor
David Russell	Candidate for appointment as GM Chief Fire Officer

OFFICERS:

Clare Monaghan	Director Policing, Crime and Fire, GMCA
Jeanette Staley	Salford City Council & GM Police and Crime Policy Lead
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Sylvia Welsh	Head of Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA
Sarah Keaveny	Head off Comms, GMCA
Claire Smith	Comms Manager, GMCA
James Cessford	Policy Officer, GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny
Lee Teasdale	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny
Steve Annette	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf Councillor Kevin Anderson, Councillor David Jones, Councillor Graham Whitham, Angela Lawrence and Majid Hussain, Independent Panel Members and Carolyn Wilkins, Lead Chief Executive, Policing, Fire and Crime.

PFCP/01/20 CONFIRMATION HEARING IN RELATION TO APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER FOR GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report that set out the process to be followed to confirm the appointment of the Chief Fire officer, following a recruitment and selection process conducted by the GMCA. The report detailed the procedures to be followed, the criteria required to be met and the candidate's qualifications for the role. It also set out the terms and conditions of employment.

The Deputy Mayor outlined for members the robust recruitment procedure that had been followed in relation to the appointment, commencing with a competitive tendering process to appoint the recruiting agents that would assist the Authority, the post was widely advertised during April and 19 applications were received. Five candidates ultimately emerged from a process of technical assessment to be short-listed for full assessment by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive, and with input by representatives of the Authority's partners and other stakeholders.

Mr David Russell attended the confirmation hearing to answer questions in relation to this appointment. A visual presentation was made in which Mr Russell outlined the challenges and opportunities that the appointment presented to him, and the long experience that he brought to the post, specifically his most recent post as Deputy Chief Fire Officer with Lancashire Fire Service, which he considered meant he was well prepared to lead transformational change and to meet key challenges going forward, including those that will present themselves in the post Covid-19 landscape, and (a) the key drivers of delivering the GM Mayor's Programme for Change, (b) addressing the recommendations in the 2019 HMI Report on GM Fire Service, (c) the Arena Inquiry, and (d) the legacy of Grenfell for the local built environment.

The Mayor detailed the qualities that had recommended Mr Russell to the interview panel and the strong legacy of achievement that he brought with him. He also paid tribute to the work that Jim Wallace had done in stabilising the Fire Service and addressing the financial challenges that he faced.

Mr Russell then responded to a range of questions from members of the Panel, including –

- the as yet unqualifiable consequences across all service sectors from the Covid-19 emergency, and the likely challenges to be faced by the Fire Service going forward;
- his key initial priorities in post would embrace a focus on observing, listening to, and communicating with staff at every level of the service, and in his first 100 days to have met with every Watch on every Fire Station and every team within every department of the Service, and thereafter the cohesive operation of the Corporate Leadership Team and the challenges it faces;
- Lancashire CC had agreed release him with effect from 7 September 2020, and
- the lessons that can be learned from other authorities in relation to partnership working in terms of finding local and sustainable solutions to local problem.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the process outlined for the appointment of the Chief Fire Officer, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service be noted.
2. That the Panel recommend to the GM Mayor that David Russell be appointed to the position of GM Fire Officer.

3. That it be noted that the current incumbent in post is due to leave on 31 August 2020 upon the expiry of his fixed term contract, and the Panel considers that it will be wholly beneficial for the Service if the proposed appointee can commence employment as quickly as possible thereafter.

PFCP/02/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. To be determined in consultation with the Chair.