

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2021 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Councillor Janet Emsley, Rochdale Council (Deputy Chair in the Chair)
Councillor Richard Gold, Bury Council
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar, Manchester City Council
Councillor Steve Williams, Oldham Council
Councillor David Lancaster, Salford Council
Councillor Amanda Peers, Stockport Council
Councillor Laura Boyle, Tameside Borough Council
Councillor Graham Whitham, Trafford Council

Also in attendance: Andy Burnham, Greater Manchester Mayor, and Baroness Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor Designate.

Officers Present:

Clare Monaghan, Director, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA
Jeanette Staley, Salford City Council and GM Police and Crime Policy Lead
Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring officer, GMCA
Steve Annette, Governance and Scrutiny GMCA
Jim Cessford, GMCA
Sarah Keaveny, GMCA
Alexandra Rucki, GMCA
Dave Russel, Chief Fire Officer, GMFRS

PCFP/10/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED/-

That the proceedings of the meeting held on 26th March 2021 to confirm the appointment of the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester be approved as a correct record.

PCFP/11/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Nadim Muslim, Bolton Council, Allison Gwynn, Tameside Council, Councillor Kevin Anderson, Wigan Council, and Majid Hussain and Angela Lawrence, Independent Members.

PCFP/12/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

PCFP/13/21 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no additional items of urgent business to be transacted.

PCFP/14/21 MR NIGEL MURPHY

Members paid tribute to the valuable contribution that Nigel Murphy had made to the work of the Panel as its Chair and extended their best wishes to him for the future. The Chair

indicated that Nigel's commitment to the work of the Panel was plain for all to see, as was his inherent sense of fairness shown in the courteous way in which he had always sought to conduct proceedings. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, then paid his own tribute for the work that Nigel Murphy had done to take the role of the Panel forward.

PCFP/15/21 MAYOR OF GREATER MANCHESTER

The Chair extended congratulations to Andy Burnham upon his re-election as Greater Manchester Mayor.

PFCP/16/21 BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer that informed Members of the statutory objectives set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, recommending that the Panel agree to co-opt local authority members.

The Panel noted that the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 set out the roles and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and of local authorities to establish and operate Police and Crime Panels. The Police, Fire and Crime Panel was established under that Act as a joint committee of the ten Greater Manchester districts; with each district appointing one member to the Panel and the Panel itself appointing two independent co-opted members, and it imposed a duty on the districts and the Panel itself to meet, so far as reasonably practicable, the balanced appointment objective to achieve a political make-up that brought together the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Police and Crime Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

The Fire Amendment Order placed a further duty on the Panel to meet a "fire and rescue expertise objective", so that members of the panel have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to effectively discharge its functions in relation to fire and rescue services, and it was the introduction of this latter objective that now required the Panel to review its composition.

To achieve a balanced Police Fire and Crime Panel, the Panel could choose to co-opt five local authority members to produce a Panel with a total membership of 17. If the Panel decided to co-opt additional local authority members, the appointment of the additional members could be made to reflect the wishes of the relevant political groups, though such appointments could only be made following notification of the Secretary of State's agreement.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree in principle to appoint five local authority co-opted members to meet the objectives described above; to seek the Secretary of State's agreement to this proposal, and to request a further report from the officers following the Secretary of State's determination.

PFCP/17/21 APPOINTMENT OF GREATER MANCHESTER DEPUTY MAYOR.

In accordance with the requirements in Schedule 1 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011; the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner Functions to the Mayor) Order 2017; the Greater Manchester

Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) (Amendment) Order 2020 and clause 18.3 of the Greater Manchester Police Fire and Crime Panel Procedure Rules, the Panel considered a report in relation to the Greater Manchester Mayor's formal notification of his recommendation that Baroness Beverley Hughes be re-appointed as Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor. The Panel was required to hold a confirmation hearing within 3 weeks of the day on which it received notification of the Greater Manchester Mayor's recommendations in respect of the appointment.

The Greater Manchester Mayor reminded the Panel of the scope of role to be carried out by the Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor, including setting the policing budget and precept, the production of a Police and Crime Plan and a Fire Plan for Greater Manchester, and the appointment and dismissal of a Chief Constable and a Chief Fire Officer, and that the skills set necessary to undertake the role, included -

- knowledge of the policing and criminal justice landscape both nationally and at a Greater Manchester Level;
- ability to work at a senior executive level and make strategic decisions as a sole decision maker;
- skills to influence policy at a national level to ensure that Greater Manchester's interests are considered in future government decision making;
- proven ability to engage with partners and the public in order to lead Greater Manchester's policing and community safety agenda;
- proven experience in understanding complex issues and the ability to challenge at a senior executive level, and
- extensive understanding of the complex nature of crime, its contributing causes and associated vulnerabilities both for victims and offenders.

He then set these criteria against the unforeseen challenges that had been faced during Baroness Hughes' time in office, including the Manchester Arena bombing, issues around local child sexual exploitation and safeguarding, the response to the control of moorland wildfires, the introduction of IOPS, responses to the pandemic, and finally the fall-out from the HMIC inspection report in 2020, all of which demonstrated that the scope of the Deputy Mayor's role had to be flexible.

The Deputy Mayor had given him sustained levels of support and advice in addressing each of those issues. He then gave an overview of the criteria used to assess the continued suitability of the candidate in terms of meeting those criteria and outlined the terms and conditions on which the appointment was proposed to be made. The Mayor considered that Baroness Hughes met the requirements for Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime and Fire, a position in which she has served since 2017, and taking on formal oversight of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in 2020. She brought to the position relevant previous experience as a Minister of the Crown, as a local Member of Parliament and as a local Council Leader.

Baroness Hughes then made a presentation at the Panel meeting about the programmes and projects she had delivered alongside the Mayor over the past four years. She reflected on the challenges faced by the police and fire services, paid tribute to the way both services had responded to those challenges, and in particular in response to the pandemic, which had shown those services at their very best. A good deal of progress had been made across a number of areas of work, especially around the restitution of police resources, neighbourhood and partnership working, community policing, support for victims of crime, and support for the work of local community safety partnerships in terms of harnessing local knowledge to find local solutions to often intractable local problems. Much remained to be

done to build on those foundations and the strong working relationships that had been built up over the past four years both within the GMP and GMFRS, with this Panel, and with local communities.

Baroness Hughes and the GM Mayor then responded to questions posed by members, including –

- whether there were contingency measures in place to enable the GM Mayor to ensure that support for the Deputy Mayor properly reflects the additional and often unexpected demands that have fallen to her to deal with;
- the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's short-term priorities. Which they then outlined as being (a) the establishment in post of the new Chief Constable, harnessing the opportunities that presented in terms of maximising the potential for cultural change within GMP (b) the achievement of cultural and organisational change within GMFRS (c) fixing the 101 Service, because peoples' first interaction with GMP needs to be better, and (d) fixing IOPS and supporting officers on the ground, and
- the priority that needs to be given around neighbourhood place-based working which the Deputy Mayor indicated was key to strong leadership and was already one of the key priorities identified already by the incoming Chief Constable.

At the conclusion of the overviews given and the detailed questioning, the Panel agreed unanimously to the Greater Manchester Mayor's recommendation of Baroness Beverley Hughes' re-appointment as Deputy Mayor. In reaching this conclusion, the Chair indicated that the Panel considered that Baroness Hughes continued to demonstrate the required leadership qualities and breadth of experience necessary to effectively discharge the duties of the office of Deputy Mayor; remained strongly committed to effective partnership engagement with the ten constituent Councils, and to continue to build robust co-operative relationships with the diverse cultural communities within the districts of Greater Manchester and with representative local organisations and community groups, and to harness the inherent talent in the workforces of GMP and GMFRS to drive forward the development of those services in Greater Manchester. In conclusion the Chair said that Panel looked forward to having a continued successful working relationship with Baroness Hughes, and to strive together to achieve shared goals.

RESOLVED/-

1. To confirm the recommendation of the Greater Manchester Mayor in relation to the re-appointment of Baroness Beverley Hughes to the post of Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, at a salary of £85,000 per annum, and subject to GMCA terms and conditions.

PFCP/18/21 GM FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - FIRE PLAN

Consideration was given to a report introducing the Fire Plan for Greater Manchester as an overarching strategy for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) to be delivered over the next four years.

Dave Russel, Chief Fire Officer then gave a brief presentation of the 47 key commitments within the Plan, outlining the way that annual delivery plans would underpin the Plan and provide a robust framework against which to enable the Panel to monitor and scrutinise progress against the delivery of each of those commitments. He emphasised that the Plan

involved a significant amount of work and involved significant cultural step changes for GMFRS and the way that it worked in the future with strategic partners.

Members welcomed the Plan as a positive piece of work the implementation of which would deliver significant benefits for local communities in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the content of the Fire Plan as the overarching strategy for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service for the next four years.
2. To advise the Greater Manchester Mayor that the Panel supports the key priorities and objectives set out in the Fire Plan.