

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

**HELD ON 25th JUNE 2015**

**Present:**

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Lynda Byrne, Stephen Coen, Basil Curley, Jim Dawson, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, Barrie Holland, Bernard Judge, Iain Lindley, Afia Kamal, Alan Matthews, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Brian Rigby, Michael Smith, Fred Walker, Paul Wild, Steve Williams, Michael Whetton and John Wright

Also in Attendance: Peter O'Reilly (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), Jim Owen (Deputy County Fire Officer), Paul Argyle (Director of Emergency Response), Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director of Resources, Wigan Council), Alyson Hall (Director of People and Organisation Development), Ged Murphy (Director of Finance and Technical Services), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Wayne Shields (Area Manager - Head of Prevention) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN 2015/16**

The Clerk invited nominations for the appointment of Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor David Acton having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor David Acton be appointed Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

Councillor David Acton thereupon took the Chair.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2015/16**

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor Tommy Judge having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor Tommy Judge be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN 2015/16**

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor John Bell having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor John Bell be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

#### **4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sharon Briggs, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood and June Hitchen.

#### **5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

#### **7. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

#### **8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The Chairman welcomed Councillors Stephen Coen and John Wright to their first meeting of the Authority.
2. The Chairman welcomed Peter O'Reilly to his first meeting of the Authority in his capacity of County Fire Officer and Chief Executive for GMFRS.
3. The Chairman advised that the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Recognised for Excellence (R4E) assessment process would be commencing on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June till Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015. The outcomes from the assessment would be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority.
4. The Chairman advised that on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015, the 30,000th Last Post would sound under the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. To commemorate this unique event, GoneWest, the cultural WWI memorial programme of the Province of West Flanders, had organised an 'Ode to Ode'. Traditionally, the buglers of the Last Post were recruited from the local fire station and that was why they wear the fire brigade uniform. GoneWest, would like to pay tribute to the worldwide solidarity among firefighters with this 'Ode to Ode'. The goal was to gather as many people as possible at local fire stations and other places all over the world to follow the 30 000th Last Post live at 8.00pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Further information would be available nearer the time.

5. The Chairman invited all Members along with their friend and families to attend the annual Emergency Services Open Day that was being held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 11.00am at the Trafford Centre outside the Orient. Further information would be available nearer the time.
6. The Chairman informed Members that a Member Training and Development Session on 'Social Media and Corporate Communications' would be taking place at the rise of the next Authority meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015. The Session would be hosted by the Director of Corporate Communications and all Members were encouraged to attend.
7. The Chairman advised Members that a 'Member Training Day at Leigh Technical Services Centre' would be taking place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 9.30am till approx. 1.00pm. A minibus would be available from FSHQ at 9.00am to take Members to Leigh if they so wished. Please could Members confirm their attendance to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.
8. The Chairman provided an update on the progress towards the recruitment of 24 Wholetime Firefighters within GMFRS. Expressions of interest were being sought from individuals who currently work for GMFRS or who had been engaged with GMFRS in the past three years. This included Volunteers, Community Risk Intervention Teams, Traineeships, Apprenticeships, Retained Firefighters, Emergency Fire Crews, the Boxing Club, Youth Engagement programmes and staff from support departments within the Service to ensure that the potential candidates reflected the communities within Great Manchester. A further update on the recruitment process would be available in due course.
9. The Chairman reminded Members to complete their Declaration of Interest Forms and return them to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.

#### **9. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7**

There were no questions submitted.

#### **10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Item 'E.1 – Former Rochdale Fire Station, Maclure Road, Rochdale' in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

The Chairman advised that a meeting had taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 with himself, County Fire Officer and Chief Executive (P.O'R), Director of Finance and Technical Services, representatives from Rochdale Council and Museum

Trustees. At this meeting the Museum Trust shared a copy of their regional Heritage Lottery Fund Bid that had been submitted on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and was due for consideration and feedback by the Heritage Lottery Fund by September 2015. Once a response had been received from the Heritage Lottery regarding the outcome of the bid the Authority would be advised accordingly on the next steps.

Resolved: That the update from the Chairman, be noted.

## 11. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk which sought approval of the Terms of Reference and Delegation of Powers to Committees which had been amended in respect of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee's appointment of Sub Committees. The Authority was also requested to appoint Members to the Authority's Committees/Panel for the 2015/16 Municipal Year and note the updated Scheme of Members' Allowances from 25th June 2015.

Resolved: That:

1. The revised Terms of Reference/Delegations to Committees and Panels for the 2015/16 municipal year, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.
2. The Timetable of Meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year, as detailed at Appendix 3 of the report, be noted.
3. The Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2015/16 as detailed at Appendix 4 of the report, be noted.
4. The Authority's Committees be constituted for the 2015/16 municipal year as detailed below:-

Committee	Membership 2015/16
Service Delivery Committee (15 Members)	Councillor John O'Brien (Chairman), Lynda Byrne (Vice-Chairman), Councillors David Acton, John Bell, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Derek Heffernan, Bernard Judge, Afia Kamal, Iain Lindley, Amna Mir, Shaun O'Neill, , Fred Walker, Steve Williams and John Wright
Policy, Resources and Performance Committee (15 Members)	Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell, Walter Brett, Sharon Briggs, Lynda Byrne, Stephen Coen, Basil Curley, Barrie Holland,

	Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen , John O'Brien, Fred Walker, Michael Whetton and Paul Wild
Collaboration and Integration Panel (10 Members plus Chairman of the Authority)	Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Barrie Holland (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Mohammed Ayub, John Bell, Jim Dawson, Daniel Hawthorne, Bernard Judge, Tommy Judge, Alan Matthews, Shaun O'Neill and Brian Rigby
Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee (Standing Order 27 Suspended) (9 Members)	Councillor Brian Rigby (Chairman) Derek Heffernan (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Walter Brett, Jim Dawson, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Alan Matthews, Michael Smith and Paul Wild; Lisa Hindle and Francis Walsh (Independent Members)

## 12. AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2015/16

The Authority noted a report of the Clerk giving details of notifications of changes of membership which had been received from district councils for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Resolved: That all changes having taken effect by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Authority's Membership for the 2015/16 municipal year was now as follows:-.

<b>BOLTON</b>	Councillor Mohammed Ayub Councillor Linda Byrne Councillor Paul Wild	Labour Labour Conservative
<b>BURY</b>	Councillor Alan Matthews Councillor Sharon Briggs	Labour Labour
<b>MANCHESTER</b>	Councillor Basil Curley Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood Councillor June Hitchen Councillor Tommy Judge Councillor Afia Kamal	Labour Labour Labour Labour Labour
<b>OLDHAM</b>	Councillor Derek Heffernan Councillor Bernard Judge Councillor Steve Williams	Liberal Democrat Labour Labour
<b>ROCHDALE</b>	Councillor Amna Mir Councillor Shaun O'Neill	Labour Labour
<b>SALFORD</b>	Councillor Stephen Coen Councillor James Dawson Councillor Iain Lindley	Labour Labour Conservative

STOCKPORT	Councillor Walter Brett Councillor Daniel Hawthorne Councillor John Wright	Labour Liberal Democrat Conservative
TAMESIDE	Councillor John Bell Councillor Barrie Holland Councillor Michael Smith	Conservative Labour Labour
TRAFFORD	Councillor David Acton Councillor Brian Rigby Councillor Michael Whetton	Labour Conservative Conservative
WIGAN	Councillor James Ellis Councillor John O'Brien Councillor Fred Walker	Independent Labour Labour

### 13. GMFRA APPOINTMENTS 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to nominate Members to serve on the GMFRS Scrutiny Board (Partnership and Innovations Management Board), Trustee of Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum Trust and Pension Board – Firefighters' Pension Scheme for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Resolved: That Members be nominated to serve for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows:

Appointment	Membership 2015/16
GMFRS Scrutiny Board (Partnership and Innovations Management Board)	Councillor John O'Brien (Chair) Councillor Derek Heffernan Councillor Michael Whetton
Trustee of the Greater Fire Service Museum Trust	Councillor Shaun O'Neill Councillor Amna Mir (Substitute)
Pension Board – Firefighters' Pension Scheme	Chairman of the Authority

### 14. NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to consider, pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985, the appointment of a Member of each constituent council to answer on behalf of the Authority questions raised during the course of meetings of their councils in relation to the discharge of the functions of the Authority.

Resolved: That Members be nominated for the purpose of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows:-

Bolton	Councillor Mohammed Ayub
Bury	Councillor Alan Matthews
Manchester	Councillor Tommy Judge
Oldham	Councillor Steve Williams
Rochdale	Councillor Shaun O'Neill
Salford	Councillor James Dawson
Stockport	Councillor Walter Brett
Tameside	Councillor Michael Smith
Trafford	Councillor David Acton
Wigan	Councillor Fred Walker

#### 15. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to determine its representation on outside bodies for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Resolved: That Members be appointed to represent the Authority on outside bodies for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows:-

Outside Body	Representation 2015/16
LGA Fire Commission	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority Leader of the Opposition
LGA Annual Assembly	Fire Commission representatives (Chairman authorised to cast the Authority's vote)
North West Fire Forum <i>(formally known as North West Fire and Rescue Partnership Board)</i>	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority Leader of the Opposition
Directors of the North West Fire Control Limited	Chairman of the Authority Councillor Fred Walker (Councillor Jim Dawson - Substitute)
North West Employers	Councillor Fred Walker
AGMA Executive Board	Chairman of the Authority (or Deputy)
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMAC)	Chairman of the Authority (or Deputy)

Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities (AMFRA)	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority (Councillor Councillor Basil Curley - Substitute)
Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO)	Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood

## **16. MEMBER CHAMPION APPOINTMENTS 2015/16**

The Clerk submitted a report which requested the Authority to nominate Members to serve as Member Champions for the 2015/16 municipal year.

The Member Champion subject areas had been established in line with GMFRS's main priorities including a new Community Risk Intervention Teams (CRIT) subject area. The Chairman requested Members to provide expressions of interest to fill these positions on a cross-party basis.

Resolved: That:

1. The following Members be appointed to serve as Member Champions to the following subject areas for the 2015/16 municipal year:

Member Champion for Absence Management: Councillor Barrie Holland  
Member Champion for Children and Young People: Councillors June Hitchen and Steve Williams

Member Champion for Efficiency Savings and Sustainability: Councillor June Hitchen

Member Champion for Inclusivity: Councillor Amna Mir

Member Champion for North West Fire Control: Councillors Steve Williams and Fred Walker

Member Champions for Member Development: Councillors John Bell and Lynda Byrne

Member Champion for Sprinklers: Councillor Jim Dawson

Member Champion for Health and Safety: Councillor Alan Matthews

Member Champion for Road Safety: Councillor Bernard Judge

Member Champion for Community Relations: Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood

Member Champion for Volunteering: Councillor Steve Williams

Member Champion for Community Risk Intervention Teams (CRIT): Councillor Jim Dawson

2. The revised Member Champion Terms of Reference as set out in the report, be noted.



**17. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS: TO NOTE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES (APPROVED BY POLICY STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS ON 21 MAY 2015) AS FOLLOWS: MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2015 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 (approved by Policy Standing Sub-Committee under delegated powers on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015) were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015, be noted.

**18. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2015 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015, be approved.

**19. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT - 2014/15**

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2014/15. The report outlined the Authority's Treasury Management Practices and provided actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2014/15 and showed that the interest on investments had exceeded the targets by £59k. The report met the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and CIPFA Prudential Code.

Resolved: That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2014/15 be accepted.

**20. CHIEF OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT - QUARTER 4 (1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2015)**

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented the 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2014/15 – 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, for Members' information and comments.

The report provided information on the wide ranging activities which had taken place across the Boroughs during this period. The report also provided an update on the following subject matters:-

- Operational Incidents;
- Service Delivery;
- Prevention and Protection;

- Corporate Communications;
- General News.

The Chairman advised that the Deputy County Fire Officer, Jim Owen, had been given the Queen's Fire Service Medal in this year's New Year's Honours List and was handed his Medal by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on 13th June 2015. Jim Owen had been recognised for his role in helping to lead Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service through a period of huge transformation and his work to develop fire protection and fire investigation services across the North West.

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive provided an update on the fire at Wharfside flats in Wigan on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The nature of the wooden-framed building meant the flames quickly spread and people living in 120 flats in the block were evacuated. At the height of the incident more than 100 firefighters, including crew from neighbouring Lancashire and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services, were mobilised to fight the fire. Incident commanders at the scene withdrew firefighters from the building as the damage was so severe it was deemed unsafe and in danger of total collapse. Residents were told that some of them may not be able to enter their homes ever again and a group of the worst affected were taken to a nearby hotel for the night where they received assistance from the British Red Cross. GMFRS had been supported at the incident and post-incident by the Urban Search and Rescue Team, Salvation Army and Wigan Council. At the request of the Authority the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive explained a compartment fire and how firefighters were trained to tackle this type of incident. He suggested that a Member Training and Development Session on 'Operational Intelligence' would be useful for Members and would be arranged accordingly.

The Chairman on behalf of the Authority took the opportunity to thank all Firefighters, Officers and Joint Services who had worked on this incident and the number of other large incidents at Littleborough, Moss Side, Prestwich and Royton that had taken place on the same day.

In addition, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive advised that bosses and workers at The Oasis Lounge on Great Jackson Street in Hulme had been convicted in one of the biggest fire safety prosecutions undertaken in the UK. A jury at Manchester Crown Court found the six defendants guilty of numerous fire safety offences, three of whom had received immediate prison sentences.

Resolved: That:

1. The 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2014/15 – 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, including the comments raised, be noted.
2. A Member Training and Development Session on 'Operational Intelligence' be arranged at the rise of a future meeting of the Authority.

## **21. QUARTER FOUR PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2014-15**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented and sought approval of the Service's Quarter Four Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2014/17 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan.

Members were advised that GMFRS had maintained strong performance into the fourth quarter of 2014/15 with fires down 12% and injuries (resulting from fires) down by 6% year on year. This reflected the Service's effective risk based targeting of prevention and protection work in homes and businesses across the city region. Progress against the Service's major development goals was summarised in Appendix A of the report. It was reported that these were broadly on track with some slippages on action encountered as a result of 40 instances of strike and 17 instances short of strike since April 2014. Due to this a number of activities had been extended into the 2015/16 Directorate Plans. The impact upon service delivery was being closely monitored through directorate meetings and programme boards to ensure high levels of public service were maintained. However, this might result in a delay to some of the Service's key development projects and arrangements were in place to resolve issues as they arose and reduce slippage as far as possible.

In addition, Appendix B of the report provided an overview of quarter four performance against the Service's key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets approved by the Fire Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (Minute 101 refers). A general summary of progress against each measure was provided in the report

Members welcomed the informative report and raised a number of comments and questions relating to the reduction in all false alarms, the slight increase in sickness absence levels for non-uniform staff and the hours donated by volunteers and how this should be changed to a more realistic target in 2015/16. Officers answered the questions submitted accordingly.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Quarter Four Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2014/17 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan, be approved.

## **22. GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE YOUTH FORUM**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought support and detailed the benefits of establishing a 'Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Youth Forum'.

Members were advised that the intention of the 'Youth Forum' was to introduce a committee of young people, who would be given the opportunity to

input into the design of Youth Engagement and Community programmes and would be a consultation panel for matters on which the Authority would like to hear their views. The 'Youth Forum' would give GMFRS direct discourse with an important section of the Greater Manchester community and would help to shape delivery of initiatives, ensuring it was relevant and met local need. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Youth Forum (GMFRYF) members would act as ambassadors for GMFRS creating greater access to a wider audience including those deemed hard to reach. The GMFRYF would assist in meeting the Youth Engagement aims of increasing employability, attainment levels and life chances and encouraging active participation in the communities in which they live.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and the comments raised, be noted.
2. The Authority support the establishment of a Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Youth Forum (GMFRSYF).

**23. FORMER ROCHDALE FIRE STATION, MACLURE ROAD, ROCHDALE**

In consultation with the Chairman of the Authority the Item was withdrawn prior to the meeting (Minute 10 refers).

CHAIRMAN