

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

HELD ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2015

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Sharon Briggs, Lynda Byrne, Basil Curley, Jim Dawson, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Bernard Judge, Iain Lindley, Afia Kamal, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, 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), Ged Murphy (Director of Finance and Technical Services), Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director of Resources, Wigan Council), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Billy Myers (Area Manager - Head of Protection), Shelley Wright (Director of Corporate Communications) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Stephen Coen, Alan Matthews and Brian Rigby MBE.

25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Authority (AGM) held on 25th June 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

In response to 'Minute 8 – Chairman's Announcements', Councillor Michael Whetton advised that he had attended the 30,000th Last Post sounded under the Menin Gate in Ypres in Belgium on Thursday 9th July 2015. He advised that he thought that it would be a fitting gesture for the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive to attend a future ceremony on behalf of GMFRS to lay a wreath and pay tribute to the worldwide solidarity among firefighters. In response, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive agreed to attend in the future.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Iain Lindley declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in 'Minute 37 – Chief's Activity Report 2015/16 – Quarter 1 (1st April to 30th June 2015)' by virtue of being employed by Rochdale Borough Housing. However, a dispensation had been granted under Section 33(2)(e) of the Localism Act 2011 for Councillor Iain Lindley to speak on informative reports relating to prevention work with registered social landlords at meetings of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority and its Committees.

27. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

28. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman advised that this was the first 'live streamed' meeting of the Fire Authority and would be available to the public via YouTube to watch either live or retrospectively.
2. The Chairman advised that a Member Training and Development Session on 'Social Media and Corporate Communications' would be taking place at the rise of the meeting and would be hosted by the Director of Corporate Communications and all Members were encouraged to attend.
3. The Chairman advised that a 'Member Awareness Session at Leigh Technical Service Centre' was due to take place on Thursday 10th September 2015 commencing at 9.30am till approx. 1.00pm and all Members were encouraged to attend.
4. The Chairman advised that he would be hosting a 'Live Question and Answer Session' on Friday 18th September 2015. The session would work in the same way as the 'Ask Peter' and 'Ask Paul' sessions with staff having the opportunity to ask questions directly to the Chairman of the Authority that would be 'live streamed' across the organisation via the intranet.
5. The Chairman advised that the Manchester Pride Parade took place on 29th August 2015 in Manchester City Centre the event was a great success with an amazing turn-out from GMFRS staff including Watches, young people from the Princes Trust Programme and Officers from the Corporate Leadership Team. The parade also included the events pump, children's fire engine, the firefighter puppet and cracker.
6. The Chairman advised that following the final stages of the Firefighter Assessment Centre, 24 new recruits had now been appointed and would shortly be joining the Operational teams. The successful individuals had come from across the organisation from Prince's Trust, Volunteers, Support staff, Community Risk Intervention Teams and Retained and would commence their training on 25th September 2015.
7. The Chairman advised that GMFRS were getting involved in the 'European Restart a Heart Day' on 16th October 2015. The campaign was to assist the British Heart Foundation get into every secondary school in Greater Manchester to teach pupils CPR. A short form had been created to enable information from personal contacts in schools to be collated and copies of the form had been circulated at the

meeting, for Members' information. In response, Councillor June Hitchen suggested that CPR training should be arranged for all Authority Members to undertake. The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive confirmed that this training would be arranged in due course.

8. The Chairman advised that this would be Deputy County Fire Officer Jim Owen's last meeting as he was due to retire from the GMFRS on 15th September 2015. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Jim for all the hard work and commitment he had given to both GMFRS and the Fire and Rescue Service nationally over his 30 years' service and wished him all the best on his retirement.

Councillor Michael Whetton, on behalf of the Leader of the Conservative Party, Councillor Derek Heffernan, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party and the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive also took the opportunity to speak on this item.

Jim Owen thanked Members and Officers for their kind words and took the opportunity to speak on his time within the Service.

9. The Chairman advised that Paul Argyle, Assistant County Fire Officer and Director of Emergency Response, had been appointed as the new Deputy County Fire Officer. The appointment had been made by the Appointments Sub-Committee on 9th July 2015.
10. The Chairman advised that the Appointments Sub-Committee would be meeting in the afternoon to make the final appointment for the replacement Assistant County Fire Officer and Director of Emergency Response.
11. The Chairman advised that on Tuesday 8th September 2015 the official Memorandum of Understanding would be signed between GMFRS, North West Ambulance Service, UNISON and the Fire Brigades Union that would enable all firefighters to attend cardiac arrest incidents from Tuesday 15th September 2015. This would mean that many more people across Greater Manchester would have the best possible chance of surviving a cardiac arrest that would result in lives being saved as a result of partnership working. The Chairman on behalf of the Authority took the opportunity to thank everyone involved for their hard work and commitment to make this happen and stated how proud he was that GMFRS firefighters were going to be supporting the community in this way.

29. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

30. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2015 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 25th June 2015 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 25th June 2015, be approved.

31. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2015 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 30th July 2015 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 30th July 2015, be approved.

32. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 23 JULY 2015 OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 23rd July 2015 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 23rd July 2015, be approved.

33. NEW MEMBER CHAMPION APPOINTMENT - EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report which requested the Authority to nominate a Member to serve as a Member Champion for the new subject area 'Employee Engagement and Organisation Development' for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year. The role of the new subject area would include attending forums for engagement with the workforce, involvement in change and transformation activity and the overall improvement and development of the organisation as a whole.

Resolved: That:

1. Councillor Fred Walker be appointed as the new Member Champion for the subject area 'Employee Engagement and Organisation Development' for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year.
2. The updated Member Champion – Terms of Reference to reflect the new subject area, as detailed at Appendix A of the report, be noted.

34. FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES PENSION BOARD - APPOINTMENT OF A REPLACEMENT SCHEME MANAGER

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought to appoint a new Scheme Manager to the Firefighter's Pension Schemes Pension Board to replace the Director of People and Organisation Development. It was proposed that the delegated responsibility for fulfilling the role of Scheme Manager was given to the Director of Finance and Technical Services on an interim basis pending the review of the Senior Management Team, and the People and Organisation Development and Finance and Technical Services Departments.

Resolved: That the delegated responsibility for fulfilling the role of Scheme Manager be given to the Director of Finance and Technical Services on an interim basis.

35. CHINESE 'SKY' LANTERNS

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update in relation to the action taken on 'Sky Lanterns'.

It was reported that at the 'Chairs and Corporate Leadership Team' Meeting on 28th May 2015 it was agreed that the Authority would become more involved and support GMFRS in lobbying the Local Authorities with regard to banning the use of sky lanterns on public land. In support of this, the Chairman of the Authority had written to each of the 10 AGMA Council Leaders, Chief Executives, Combined Authority, Chief Executive of Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Chairman of the Local Government Association and the Greater Manchester Interim Mayor to gain support going forward.

Responses to date had been received from Rochdale Council who advised that they would not be banning the use of sky lanterns however they would be seeking to manage the risk through licensing arrangements. Salford Council was one of the first to ban their use on public land and responded to reiterate their continued support. Responses from the other eight Local Authorities were awaited and Members were encouraged to proactively engage and lobby their home authorities to influence the banning of the launching of sky lantern from public land. Councillor Bernard Judge confirmed that a motion was unanimously passed at Oldham's Council Meeting on 1st April 2015 banning the sale and use of sky lanterns on any of its property or premises.

GMFRS would continue to proactively reduce risk and would continue to educate the communities of Greater Manchester in the risk associated with sky lanterns, work nationally with the Chief Fire Officers Association to lobby for a change in national legislation and work with Trading Standards to control and limit the sale of sky lanterns and work nationally where possible to legislate against them.

Going forward Members requested that additional information was provided at their Quarterly Borough Management Meetings on the number of Sky Lantern incidents which had occurred in each Borough. Members advised that this information would be shared at their home authorities to assist in influencing their Leaders and Chief Executives to implement a ban on launching sky lanterns from public land across Greater Manchester.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. Authority Members continue to proactively engage with their respective home authorities to influence the banning of launching sky lanterns from public land.
3. Each Group Manager at their Member Quarterly Borough Management Meetings provide an update on the number of Sky Lanterns incidents which have occurred per quarter in each Borough.

36. LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2015 - FEEDBACK

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided feedback from the LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2015 which took place from 30th June to 2nd July 2015 at Harrogate.

As part of the conference the Chairman of the Authority, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive, David Lloyd - Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillor Jeremy Hilton, Chairman of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee, hosted a fringe session titled 'There's more than one way to rescue someone: the role of the fire and rescue service in public health'.

The next Conference was due to take place on 5th July to 7th July 2016 in Bournemouth.

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

37. CHIEF'S ACTIVITY REPORT 2015/16 - QUARTER 1 (1ST APRIL-30TH JUNE 2015)

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented the new look 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 1 2015/16 – 1st April to 30th June 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:-

- General News;
- Operational Incidents;
- Service Delivery on the 10 Boroughs;

- Prevention and Protection;
- Corporate Communications.

The Authority took the opportunity to congratulate Salvation Army Major Tansley on being made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday honours this year for dedicating his life to helping firefighters across the UK.

In addition, the Authority welcomed the saving of £13m which the Community Risk Intervention Teams (CRIT) pilot had achieved in its first six months. The teams were based in Wigan, Salford and Manchester and had been carrying out prevention work to reduce the risk of fires, falls in the home and opportunities for crime. The teams had also been responding to calls on behalf of the North West Ambulance Service, including cardiac arrests, low priority incidents and dealing with concern for welfare incidents on behalf of Greater Manchester Police. In response, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive advised that more accurate figures on savings would be available in due course and work was taking place to extend the pilot to a further 10 Fire Stations which would be identified and circulated to Members in due course.

The Chairman advised that he and the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive would be attending the Fire Health Summit on 10th September 2015 in London to submit the 'Consensus Statement' and 'Design Principles' on extending GMFRS work to become involved in winter pressures, ensuring that homes are warm and tackling loneliness for the elderly.

An updated version of pages 25 (Service Delivery Statistics – Rochdale) and 41 (Service Delivery Statistics – Wigan) was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved: That the 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 1 2015/16 – 1st April to 30th June 2015, including the comments raised, be noted.

38. COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised on the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) pilot completed by Corporate Planning and Intelligence on the behalf of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive (P. O'Reilly) that was initiated whilst he was in his former role of Director of Prevention and Protection. The pilot involved operational crews making an assessment of lives and property saved by GMFRS when responding to primary building fires. Data had been collected within the Incident Recording System (IRS) during 2014/15. The outcomes of the pilot were based upon the first full year of data.

The main outcome from the pilot identified that for every £1 the service costs to respond to incidents there was an £18 saving in terms of life and property. This was a powerful way of expressing the value of GMFRS to the public in Greater Manchester. The pilot concentrated on responding to fires and did not involve other areas of work such as responding to Road Traffic Collisions or other types of rescues.

A summary leaflet including info-graphic and case studies had been produced and was available on the GMFRS website. A press release had also been produced and information regarding the CBA had been posted to social media. A copy of the leaflet was circulated at the meeting for Members' information. In addition, a report on the 'Cost Benefit Analysis' was submitted to the Service Delivery Committee on 23rd July 2015, for noting (Service Delivery Committee - Minute 9 refers).

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The annual production of a 'Cost Benefit Analysis' in accordance with paragraph 19 of the report, be approved.

39. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2015/16 AND ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented the Service's Quarter 1 performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2015-18 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan. The report also included the Service's 2014/15 Annual Report which provided an overview of the Service's achievements and performance against its plan for the preceding year and was detailed at Appendix C of the report.

Members were advised that GMFRS had started the new fiscal year with an increase in all fires which saw a 12% increase in Quarter 1 when compared with the same period in 2014/15. This was due largely to a higher volume being seen specifically during the month of April. Despite this the strong performance with regard to injuries (resulting from fires) continued with volumes being 18% lower than the number seen during Quarter 1 last year. A summary of progress against Quarter 1 scheduled activities from directorate plans was detailed at Appendix A with the exceptions being detailed at Appendix B of the report. An overview of Quarter 1 performance against the Service's key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets approved by the Fire Authority on 23rd April 2015 (Integrated Risk Management and Corporate Plan 2015-18 – Minute 101 refers) was detailed at Appendix D of the report.

In response to a previous request by the Authority approval was sought to increase the number of volunteering hours target from 28,000 to 40,000 per annum. At present the Service had 239 active volunteers who had donated a total of 9554 hours during Quarter 1 that was a 6.72% increase on the hours donated during the same period last year. Whilst there had been a gradual reduction on an annual basis regarding the number of volunteering hours it was recognised that the hours were well above target, therefore, an increase to a more challenging target was required.

Members raised a series of questions and comments relating to the increase in deliberate fires and non-domestic fires and the reduction in accidental dwelling fires resulting from the increase in the number of Home Safety Checks which had taken place across Greater Manchester and were answered by Officers accordingly.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The performance against corporate delivery goals and key performance indicators for Quarter 1 2015/16 of the Integrated Risk Management Corporate Plan 2015/18, be noted.
3. The Annual Report 2014/15, as detailed at Appendix C of the report, be approved and its publication on GMFRS website, be supported.
4. Future Cost Benefit Analysis – Value of Property and Life Saved from Fire, calculated as detailed at paragraph 22 of the report, be noted
5. The Number of Volunteering Hours Target increase from 28,000 to 40,000 hours per annum, as detailed at paragraph 40 of the report, be approved.

CHAIRMAN

