

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
AUTHORITY**

**HELD ON 21st APRIL 2016**

**Present:**

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillors John Bell, Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Sharon Briggs, Lynda Byrne, Basil Curley, Jim Dawson, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Bernard Judge, Iain Lindley, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Brian Rigby, Fred Walker, Paul Wild, Steve Williams, Michael Whetton and John Wright

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), Donna Hall (Clerk to the Authority, Wigan Council), Geoff Harris (Director of Prevention and Protection), Andrea Heffernan (Director of Corporate Support) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

**83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Coen, Jim Ellis, Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Afia Kamal, Alan Matthews and Michael Smith.

**84. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Authority held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**86. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

**87. 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 retrospective.
2. The Chairman reminded Members to complete their Disclosure Requirement on Related Party Transactions for the Statement of Accounts 2015/16 and return them to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.

3. The Chairman advised that the Inquest into the death of Firefighter Stephen Hunt had commenced on Monday 4th April 2016. Daily reports were being written live from the Inquest by a trained court reporter that was independent from GMFRS and was there purely to provide updates for GMFRS staff who wished to read them. These documents were available via a dedicated page on the GMFRS Intranet.
4. The Chairman announced that that this would be Councillor Lynda Byrne's, Vice-Chairman of the Service Delivery Committee last meeting as she would be resigning from the Authority in May 2016 to become Mayor at Bolton Council. Councillor Derek Heffernan was also to become Mayor at Oldham Council. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Councillor Lynda Byrne, for all the hard work and commitment she had given to GMFRS over the years and wished both Members all the best for their Mayoral Year.

Councillor Lynda Byrne and Derek Heffernan both thanked the Chairman for his kind words and both took the opportunity to thank Officers and Members for their support during their time on the Authority.

5. The Chairman advised that the following seven fire stations were being used as Polling Stations in the local elections on 5th May 2016:-
  - Agecroft (Salford)
  - Hindley (Wigan)
  - Heywood (Rochdale)
  - Littleborough (Rochdale)
  - Rochdale (Rochdale)
  - Offerton (Stockport)
  - Staleybridge (Tameside)
6. The Chairman took the opportunity to wish everyone good luck in the forthcoming local elections and thanked all Members for the time and commitment they had given to the Authority over the past 12 months.

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

There were no questions submitted.

#### **89. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2016 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016, be approved.

## **90. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2016 OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016, be approved.

## **91. QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2015-16**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented and sought approval of the Service's Quarter 3 Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2015/18 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan.

It was reported that GMFRS recorded 3039 fires in Quarter 3 which was 293 above the quarterly target and the volume was 7.27% higher than the same period in 2014/15. There were a total of 2371 special service calls which represented a 138.29% increase when compared to the same period last year and a total of 3567 false alarms recorded which represented an increase of 378 when compared to the same period in 2014/15. Sadly there had also been 4 fire related fatalities.

Members were reminded that Greater Manchester experienced extreme weather variances during Quarter 3 with October being the driest October since 2007. The autumn storms Abigail, Barney and Clodagh all caused some disruption during November and December was extraordinarily wet and windy as a result of storms Desmond, Eva and Frank. Severe flooding affected Cumbria for much of December, and became widespread across North Wales, northern England and Scotland after Christmas, specifically impacting Greater Manchester on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Members were advised that the summary of progress against Quarter 3 scheduled activities from the directorate plans was detailed at Appendix A of the report. An overview of Quarter 3 performance against the Service's key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets approved by the Authority on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 (minute 101 refers) was detailed at Appendix B of the report. Performance in Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 was detailed at Appendix C of the report, with Quarters 1 and 2 having previously been reviewed at the Authority meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> September (minute 37 refers) and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 (minute 67 refers) respectively. A view of historical incident trends was detailed at Appendix D of the report.

Members welcomed the informative report and raised a number of comments and questions relating to the Prince's Trust Programme, hours donated by volunteers, the success in reducing the carbon footprint across the Service, the improvement in response times to incidents in Quarter 3 and the reason for this, the progress being made on the Recognised for Excellence EFQM

Rating, visits to local schools to deliver safety messages and preserving heritage properties from fire with specific reference to the recent fire at Monks Hall in Eccles on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and Wythenshawe Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016. All questions and queries were answered by Officers accordingly.

Members were advised that year to date there had been 2371 Special Service Calls in Quarter 3 which had been broken down highlighting the top 5 categories. Members requested that the categories were broken down further in future performance reports to provide further information on what calls were included across the whole 100% of calls.

Councillor Fred Walker made reference to the overall sickness levels during Quarter 3 standing at 3.54% that was slightly above the target of 3%. The reasons for the increase were discussed and in response, Councillor Fred Walker requested that in future performance reports the absence levels should also be reported in 'Shifts Lost' and if possible to compare with absence figures from the Police and the Public Sector Benchmark.

Councillor June Hitchen advised that a fatal fire had occurred on Surbiton Road, Manchester where she lived on Monday 29th February 2016 at 9.30am. Councillor June Hitchen on behalf of the residents on Surbiton Road took the opportunity to thank all operational, support and multi-agency staff for the professional service, support and aftercare they provided to the local residents. Councillor David Acton also took the opportunity to thank all staff and partners involved.

Donna Hall, Clerk to the Authority, welcomed the informative report and the good work that was taking place across the Services with both partners and multi-agencies. She advised that the Interim Mayor of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority had commissioned a report titled 'Place Based Integration' that would be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority, for Members' information.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Quarter 3 Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2015/18 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan, as detailed at Appendix A and B of the report, be approved.
3. The content of the performance indicators as detailed in Appendix C of the report, be noted.
4. The Historical Trend graphs as detailed in Appendix D of the report, be noted.

5. The report commissioned by Interim Mayor of the Greater Manchester Combined titled 'Placed Based Integration' be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority.
6. The 'Absence Levels', as detailed in paragraph 43 and 44 of the report also be reported in 'Shifts Lost' in future Performance Reports.
7. The Special Service Calls, as detailed in paragraph 11 of the report, be broken down further in future Performance reports.

## **92. 2016/17 SERVICE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR AND TARGET PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided the level 1 Key Performance Indicators and any associated target forecasts for the 2016/17 financial year.

Members were advised that Level 1 KPIs were publicly-reported and were GMFRS own indicators designed to provide the public with a measure of progress against the Service's delivery goals and targets. To ensure best practice the Service benchmarked performance against similar fire and rescue services where possible. Once the KPI's had been agreed and following any associated consultation the 2016/17 KPIs and forecasts would be included in the final Corporate Plan 2016-2020 that was due to be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016, for approval.

An updated version of the report 'Key Performance Indicator Framework 2016/17' was circulated at the meeting (pages 64 and 65 of the Agenda) which included figures for all the KPI's and the updated figures were highlighted in yellow.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report including the updated information and comments raised, be noted.
2. The level 1 Key Performance Indicators and any associated target forecasts for the 2016/17 financial year, as detailed within the report, be approved.

## **93. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 8-9 MARCH 2016 - FEEDBACK**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided feedback from the 'LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition' which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in Bristol. This event brought together all the Chief Fire Officers and senior Fire Authority Members from across the country to talk about the key issues of the day and to think about how together these challenges could be tackled.

This year's conference focussed on transformation and collaboration. As part of the conference the Chairman of the Authority hosted a workshop on 'Devolution' and chaired a Keynote Session titled 'The future of the fire and rescue authority' with Lyn Brown MP, Shadow Fire and Communities Minister.

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

CHAIRMAN