

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
AUTHORITY**

HELD ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2016

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Stephen Coen, Basil Curley, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Chris Goodwin, Joan Grimshaw, James Grundy, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen, Mike Hurleston, Afia Kamal, Alan Matthews, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Brian Rigby, Noel Spencer, Peter Taylor, Fred Walker, Paul Wild and Steve Williams

Also in Attendance: Peter O'Reilly (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), Donna Hall (Clerk to the Authority, Wigan Council), Paul Argyle (Deputy County Fire Officer), Tony Clarke (Assistant Director - Finance, Wigan Council), Geoff Harris (Director of Prevention and Protection), Andrea Heffernan (Director of Corporate Support), Dave Keelan (Director of Emergency Response), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Shelley Wright (Director of Communications and Engagement) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrie Holland, Janet Jackson, Iain Lindley, Amna Mir and Michael Whetton.

28. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd June 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

30. URGENT BUSINESS - FIRE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS BUILDING BULLETIN 100 (BB100)

The Chairman advised that he had one item of urgent business titled 'Fire Safety in Schools building Bulletin 100 (BB100)'. The report advised that the Department for Education had published non statutory guidance designed to show how new school buildings could be built in such a way as to reduce the risk of fire and to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and visitors if a fire occurs. The new guidance did not advocate the installation of sprinklers.

The Chairman considered this to be a retrograde step that did not make sense. He advised that sprinklers do not just save lives they also prevent fires

from spreading and causing significant disruption to children's education and was supported by the Chief Fire Officers Association, Teachers and the Local Government Association. It was reported there were more than 600 fires in British schools last year and arson was suspected in 40% of cases. Each large fire caused £1.5M of damage on average, according to insurers, who say sprinklers pay for themselves in lower premiums. Therefore this was a false economy change of policy.

The Chairman recommended that the Authority called on the Government to reconsider their position and reintroduce the guidance to the Building Regulations with regard to the Installation of Fire Sprinkler Systems into new school buildings. Both Councillor John Bell and Councillor Derek Heffernan, Leaders of the Opposition Parties supported the recommendation.

Donna Hall, Clerk to the Authority requested that an additional recommendation was considered to seek support from the 10 Local Authorities in Greater Manchester to take a stronger line for sprinklers in new school buildings. In addition, the Chairman requested that the Lead Spokesperson submit a motion at their home authorities to support these recommendations.

Resolved: That:

1. The Authority call on the Government to reconsider their position and reintroduce the guidance to the Building Regulations with regard to the Installation of Fire Sprinkler Systems into new school buildings.
2. The Authority seek support from the 10 Local Authorities in Greater Manchester to take a stronger line for sprinklers in new school buildings.
3. The Lead Spokesperson submit a motion at their home authorities to support these recommendations.

31. 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 retrospectively.
2. The Chairman advised that a 'Demonstration of Operational and Prevention and Protection Equipment' would be taking place at the rise of the meeting and all Members were encouraged to attend.
3. The Chairman advised that the Manchester Pride Parade had taken place on 27th August 2016 in Manchester City Centre. The event was a great success with an amazing turn-out from GMFRS staff and volunteers including Watches, young people from the Princes Trust Programme, Fire Authority Members and Officers from the Corporate

Leadership Team. The parade also included the events pump, children's fire engine, the firefighter puppet and cracker.

4. The Chairman advised that an Open Day at Eccles Fire Station had taken place on Saturday 3rd September 2016 and that the Rt. Worshipful Ceremonial Mayor of Salford Councillor Karen Garrido along with her consort and Mayoress had attended the event and met with the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Area Manager.
5. The Chairman advised that an Open Day at Rochdale Fire Station was due to take place on Saturday 24th September 2016 from 10.00am till 4.00pm and all Members were invited to attend along with their families and friends.
6. The Chairman advised that on the 15th July 2016 the GMFRS rostering team made a request to the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) to jointly seek external assistance on Shift Duty System 12 (SDS12) from the NJC Joint Secretaries, which was accepted by the FBU Brigade Secretary and the process was arranged for the 30th and 31st August 2016. On 30th August 2016 the rostering team met with NJC Joint Secretaries in Manchester and sought their assistance to reach agreement on SDS12. Unfortunately the rostering team was unable to make any progress to reach any amended position on the SDS12 proposal with the FBU and at 3.00pm on 30th August 2016 the process was exhausted. The rostering team continued with their implementation plan for SDS12 and had also jointly written with the FBU to the NJC Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for further assistance on SDS12.

32. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

33. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2016 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 16th June 2016 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 16th June 2016, be approved.

34. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2016 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 28th July 2016 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 28th July 2016, be approved.

35. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 23 JUNE 2016 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 23rd June 2016 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 23rd June 2016, be approved.

36. MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2016 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 20th July 2016 were submitted (Appendix 4).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 20th July 2016, be approved.

37. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2016 OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Service Committee held on 7th July 2016 were submitted (Appendix 5).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Service Committee held on 7th July 2016, be approved.

38. ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought approval of the Annual Report for 2015/16 and its publication on the GMFRS Website.

It was reported that the 2015/16 Annual Report provided an overview of the Service's achievements and performance against its plan for the preceding year. Members were advised that this year had been particularly busy for GMFRS as there had been a number of large scale incidents that had placed huge demands on resources. Also, work had taken place with partners to scale up some pilot schemes to save more lives and money in line with the Greater Manchester Strategy. A copy of the Annual Report for 2015/16 was detailed at Appendix A of the report, for information.

Members welcomed the informative report and made reference to the increase in the number of people rescued from fires and other emergencies since last year when the budget continued to reduce. The flooding and extreme weather had impacted heavily on resources in 2015/16 with firefighters rescuing nearly 1000 people in less than 24 hours on Boxing Day.

Councillor June Hitchen took the opportunity to congratulate staff for achieving the national WOW! Award for the second year running. The

organisation had won the Serving the Community: Best Organisation 2015 award.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Annual Report 2015/16, as detailed at Appendix A of the report, be approved and its publication on GMFRS website, be supported.

39. FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT OUTCOMES 2016

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the recent whole time (SDS) 2016 Firefighter recruitment activity and assessment outcomes.

Members were advised that in February 2016, the organisation's attraction strategy 'Join Us' was signed off and endorsed by the Corporate Leadership Team, underpinning the organisation's commitment and intent to attract under-represented groups and communities into the current workforce. The wholetime (SDS) Firefighter recruitment campaign opened on Monday 23rd May 2016 and closed on Sunday 12th June and eligibility for application was again based on an individual's existing participation with GMFRS and prior engagement via a series of routes and channels including Prince's Trust, apprenticeships, volunteering, resilience crews, Retained Firefighting and cadets. In total 172 applicants submitted applications prior to the deadline and of those shortlisted, 69 candidates passed the National Firefighter Selection test. Following the analysis of all assessment information, 23 candidates were offered the opportunity to join the trainee firefighter programme and 21 candidates accepted the offer and have progressed onto the 16 week course which commenced on Wednesday 24th August 2016. The candidates had come from a variety of talent pathways which included staff, volunteers, resilience fire crews and Moss Side Boxing Gym and 42% of the candidates reflected the identified target group of under-represented parts of Greater Manchester communities. The Chairman commented that the target group reached was an improvement on last year however going forward it was the aim to attract a cohort that truly reflected the Greater Manchester community.

Councillor Fred Walker requested a breakdown on the number of new recruits who reside within Greater Manchester. In response, the Deputy County Fire Officer advised that he would circulate this information outside the meeting.

The Chairman of the Fire Authority and Deputy County Fire Officer attended an event on Friday 26th August 2016 to congratulate and welcome the new starters to GMFRS. The Passing-Out Parade was due to take place on Thursday 15th December 2016 which all Members would be invited to attend.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.

2. The Authority welcome the 21 new Firefighter Recruits to GMFRS.
3. A breakdown of the number of new recruits who reside within Greater Manchester be circulated to Members outside the meeting.

40. BUDGET UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the latest budget position for 2016/17 including the process for setting the budget for 2017/18 with specific reference to the following:

- Current Year Budget Monitoring Update 2016/17;
- Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20;
- Combined Authority Transition Update;
- Business Rates Retention Consultation;
- Efficiency Strategy Update;
- Reporting Schedule / Planning Process.

The report followed the latest update on the Authority's Revenue and Capital budgets, provided for Quarter 1 Revenue and Capital to the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee on 20th July 2016 (Minute 11 refers), and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, presented to the Authority on 11th February 2016 (Minute 76 refers).

Resolved: That the content of the report and comments raised, be noted.

41. DEVOLUTION - GMCA GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND SCHEME: PHASE 2 - CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk which provided an update on Devolution in Greater Manchester and advised on the outcome of the Governance Review and Scheme: Phase 2 Consultation undertaken by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

It was reported that the statutory Order for the election of the Mayor for Greater Manchester had been made and the election would take place on 4th May 2017, with the Mayor taking up office on 8th May 2017. The GMCA had undertaken a further governance review and was proposing a further scheme which included changes in the governance arrangements for the functions of Fire and Rescue in Greater Manchester. The GMCA had also undertaken a six week public consultation on the review and proposed scheme which concluded on 15th August 2016. Following consideration of the consultation responses the GMCA was satisfied that devolving the powers as set out in the Scheme would lead to an improvement in the exercise of functions in relation to the area of Greater Manchester and a report would be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government seeking approval of the Review and Scheme: Phase 2.

A copy of the Authority's response to the consultation was detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, for information.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The outcome of the consultation on the GMCA Governance Review and Scheme: Phase 2, be noted.
3. It be noted that following consideration of the consultation responses the GMCA is satisfied that devolving the powers as set out in the Scheme will lead to an improvement in the exercise of functions in relation to the area of Greater Manchester.
4. It be noted that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority is to submit a report to the Department for Communities and Local Government seeking approval of the Review and Scheme: Phase 2.

42. LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2016 - 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 2016 which took place from 5th to 7th July 2016 at Bournemouth International Centre.

The 2016 annual conference took place days after the outcome of the EU Referendum on 23rd June 2016 to exit the EU followed by the resignation of the Prime Minister, David Cameron. The conference discussed the political uncertainty this had caused and took the opportunity to discuss priorities and plans for the future including the challenges the sector was facing.

The next Conference was due to take place on 4th to 6th July 2017 at the Birmingham International Convention Centre.

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

43. CHIEF'S ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/17 (1ST APRIL - 30TH JUNE 2016)

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented the 'Chief's Activity Report' for Quarter 1 2016/17 – 1st April to 30th June 2016, for Members' information and comments. The report provided Members with information on the wide ranging activities which had taken place across the Boroughs during this period and also provided an update on the following subject matters:-

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

- Communications and Engagement.

Members had a detailed discussion on the content of the report and the activity which had taken place across the Service in Quarter 1.

Councillor Tommy Judge, Vice Chairman, made reference to the success of Connor Tudsbury, a teenage boxer who attended the Moss Side Fire Station Boxing Club and had achieved the top prize in the England Boxing Junior Amateur Boxing Association Championships in April 2016. The boxing club had been set up by firefighters to try and engage with young people in the Moss Side area to break down barriers in the community and combat antisocial behaviour and was now a true asset which transformed people's lives.

Councillor Basil Curley welcomed the Homeless Partnership which had been launched to assist tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in Manchester. He also took the opportunity to thank crews for attending a recent event in Charlestown. Councillor Basil Curley felt it would be useful if a specific report could be submitted to a future meeting which provided a summary of all community events including projects taking place across Greater Manchester. In response, the Director of Prevention and Protection advised he would provide this information to a future meeting.

Councillor June Hitchen made reference to the forthcoming Halloween period and requested that a report was submitted on the Treacle Campaign including an element on vulnerability on clothing. She advised that parents had found the campaign that had taken place last year on clothing including fancy dress costumes extremely useful. The Director of Prevention and Protection advised that a report on the 2016 Treacle Campaign would be submitted to the next meeting of the Service Delivery Committee on 22nd September 2016.

Resolved: That:

1. The 'Chief's Activity Report' for Quarter 1 2016/17 – 1st April to 30th June 2016 and comments raised, be noted.
2. A report detailing the 2016 Treacle Campaign be submitted to the next meeting of the Service Delivery Committee on 22nd September 2016.
3. A report providing a summary of all community events including projects taking place across Greater Manchester be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority.

44. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2016-17

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented and sought approval of the Service's Quarter 1 Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2016/20 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan. The report provided a view of performance for each of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

against forecasted target and variances when compared to Quarter 1 of 2015/16.

It was reported that there had been 12,280, calls (999) handled by North West Fire Control during Quarter 1 and around 15% of these would have been duplicate calls. GMFRS had recorded 3516 fires that was 179 below the forecasted target and a reduction of 59 when compared to the same period last year. Road traffic collisions had increased by 7% when compared to Quarter 1 2015/16 and a total of 2139 special service calls had been received which represented an increase of 1174. Sadly there had been 2 fire related fatalities during Quarter 1 2016/17 and 60 casualties from fire which represented a significant increase on the same period last year.

Members were advised that the quarterly, year to date and previous year to date figures for all key performance indicators were detailed at Appendices A and B of the report. A series of histograms providing a view of incident data since April 2012 to date was detailed at Appendix C and a summary of progress against Quarter 1 scheduled activities from Directorate Plans was detailed at Appendix D of the report.

The Director of Emergency Response advised that Exercise 'Triton 2' had taken place between 11th and 15th July 2016. The exercise was simultaneously hosted by GMFRS and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Fire Service (FRS) and involved a significant number of National Resilience Assets and FRS personnel and a range of exercises took place with a variety of multi-agency partners. Councillor Steve Williams advised that he had attended the Exercise as an observer and took the opportunity to thank Mick Lawlor, Civil Contingencies Manager, for his part in organising the event.

Councillor June Hitchen raised her concern at the increase in Firefighter Hostilities compared with Quarter 1 2015/16 and asked whether the Service worked with local schools on in trying to resolve this issue. In response the Director of Prevention and Protection advised that visits were arranged with local schools when attacks had happened in specific areas. Councillor June Hitchen also made reference to the sickness levels with specific regard to mental health which remained one of the main reasons for time lost to sickness and welcomed the work that was being undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Team to change the culture and stigma of mental health by promoting awareness and encouraging people to talk openly about their mental health issues. In response, the Deputy County Fire Officer advised that to support the work that was taking place three case studies had been published in the Routine Circular on 'A firefighter's battle with depression and anxiety' which had been written by firefighters in the Service to assist in reducing the stigma of mental health. These would be circulated to Members for their information.

The Chairman requested on behalf of the Authority that a report was provided to a future meeting detailing how quickly the main highways in Greater Manchester could be opened following an incident. This request came as GMFRS moved into devolution and when an accident on one of the main

highways occurred it could cause disruption for hours and affect the regeneration and economy of the conurbation. In response, the Deputy County Fire Officer advised that GMFRS had been consulted on the Transport for Manchester Strategy and had also worked on a national level to create strategies to reduce traffic disruption that were now operated on a daily basis. He advised that a report on the 'Road Network Infrastructure Operational Issues in Greater Manchester' would be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2016/20 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan, as detailed at Appendices A and B of the report, be approved.
3. The series of histograms providing a view of incident data since April 2012 to date, as detailed in Appendix C of the report, be noted.
4. The summary of progress against Quarter 1 2016/17 scheduled activities from Directorate Plans, as detailed in Appendix D of the report, be noted.
5. The three case studies on 'A firefighter's battle with depression and anxiety' which had been written by firefighters in the Service to assist in reducing the stigma of mental health, be circulated for information.
6. A report on the 'Road Network Infrastructure Operational Issues in Greater Manchester' be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority.

45. EFQM AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided a recap of the GMFRS excellence journey to date and a progress update on the organisation's commitment to service excellence including the next steps.

Members were advised that as part of the ongoing commitment to excellence GMFRS had been selected as finalists at the 2016 BQF Achievement Award for Innovation. The submission was in relation to the Incident Command Academy and how this had been developed using state of the art technology. The awards ceremony would be taking place in London on the 13th October 2016 which the Member Champion for Efficiency Savings, Sustainability and Excellence would be invited to attend.

The 'Recognised for Excellence' (R4E) assessment process was biannual with the last process taking place in 2015 and the next was due to take place in June 2017. The submission document would be produced by the Planning

and Performance Department with input from all directorates and would be submitted in April ahead of the site visit in June 2017.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. GMFRS success in being selected as a finalist at the 2016 BQF Achievement Award for Innovation along with attendance at the Ceremony on 13th October 2016, be noted.
3. The Authority continue to support the long term value of EFQM to provide external assurance of the Service's performance and embedding of this process within the organisation to inform future strategic planning and confirm the preferred re-assessment process.

46. DEVELOPMENT GOAL 20 OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTRE UPDATE

The Chairman agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Service Delivery Committee on 22nd September 2016.

CHAIRMAN