

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

HELD ON 20th APRIL 2017

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Mohammed Ayub, Stephen Coen, Basil Curley, Chris Goodwin, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Daniel Hawthorne, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Afia Kamal, Iain Lindley, Mike Hurleston, Alan Matthews, Jan Jackson, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Noel Spencer, Peter Taylor, Fred Walker, Paul Wild, Steve Williams and Michael Whetton

Also in Attendance: Peter O'Reilly (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), 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)

93. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Walter Brett, Joan Grimshaw, Derek Heffernan and Brian Rigby.

94. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th February 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

96. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

The Chairman accepted the following item of urgent business for the reason that it would conclude the CFO's Activity Reporting for 2016/17.

1. CFO's Activity Report 1st January to 31st March 2017 (Quarter 4)

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented the 'Chief's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2016/17 – 1st January to 31st March 2017, 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.

Resolved: That the 'Chief's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2016/17 – 1st January to 31st March 2017 and comments raised, be noted.

97. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman advised 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 reminded Members to complete their Disclosure Requirement on Related Party Transactions for the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 and return to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.
3. The Chairman advised Members that the following 8 fire stations were being used as Polling Stations in the Mayoral elections on 4th May 2017:-
 - Agecroft (Salford)
 - Broughton (Salford)
 - Hindley (Wigan)
 - Heywood (Rochdale)
 - Littleborough (Rochdale)
 - Rochdale (Rochdale)
 - Offerton (Stockport)
 - Stalybridge (Tameside)
5. At the conclusion of the business on the agenda the Chairman advised that this would be the last meeting of the Fire Authority and he gave Members the opportunity to say a few words on the work of the Fire Authority since it was constituted under the Local Government Act 1985 – the first meeting of the Fire Authority was held on 4th October 1985.

Councillor Michael Whetton on behalf of Councillor John Bell, Conservative Group Leader read a speech which he had prepared for the meeting detailing his time on the Fire Authority since he joined in 1999. Councillor John Bell was unable to attend the meeting.

Councillors June Hitchen, Alan Matthews, Fred Walker, Michael Whetton and Steve Williams also took the opportunity to speak about their time on the Fire Authority.

The Chairman put on record the hard work and commitment which Councillor Fred Walker had given to the Fire Authority over his 30

years' service which included 18 years as Chairman of the Authority. He also advised that Councillor Alan Matthews was standing down as an Elected Member at Bury Council this May and also took the opportunity to thank him for the hard work and commitment he had given to the Fire Authority over his years' service since 1986.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank all existing and former Fire Authority Members for their hard work and commitment to the GMFRS over the years. He also thanked the Corporate Leadership Team, Operational Crews and Support staff for all the hard work and commitment they provide to GMFRS and how everyone should be proud of what GMFRS and the Fire Authority had achieved to transform the communities of Greater Manchester .

6. The Chairman introduced a short film that had been put together by the Corporate Communications and Engagement Team outlining the work of the Fire Authority since 1985.

98. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

99. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting when the following item was considered for the reasons set out below:

Agenda Item No.	Title	Minute No.	Description of Exempt Information by reference to the paragraph number in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972
E.1	Insurance Premium Increases	114.	3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

100. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 2nd March 2017 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 2nd March 2017, be approved.

101. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 9 MARCH 2017 OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 9th March 2017 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 9th March 2017, be approved.

102. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 2017 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 30th March 2017 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 30th March 2017, be approved.

103. DEVOLUTION - GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (FIRE AND RESCUE FUNCTIONS) ORDER 2017

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk which provided an update on the devolution of fire and rescue functions in Greater Manchester.

It was reported that The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) Order 2017 was made on 24th March 2017 and would come fully into force on 8th May 2017. This was when fire and rescue functions would transfer to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and they would be exercisable by the elected Mayor. The arrangements allow the Mayor to appoint a committee of up to 15 members from the Greater Manchester constituent councils to exercise fire and rescue functions, subject to certain non-delegable matters. The Order provided that Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority would be abolished on 8th May 2017. A copy of the Order was detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, for information.

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

104. DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO THE AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 27 APRIL 2017

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk which sought approval to the delegation of powers to the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee for the final Committee meeting in the 2016/17 municipal year.

Resolved: That all business transacted by the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee on Thursday 27th April 2017, where it was not already the subject of delegated authority, be executed under delegated power without the need for future ratification.

105. UPDATE ON THE OUTCOMES FROM OLDHAM STREET FATAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress of actions of GMFRS to implement the learning following both the investigation into the fire at Paul's Hair World on 13th July 2013 and the publication of Fatal Accident Investigation Report in December 2016.

The publication of the Fatal Accident Investigation Report at the meeting of the Fire Authority on 8th December 2016 (Minute 74 refers) was the culmination of the internal GMFRS investigation into the tragic death of Firefighter Stephen Hunt.

This report presented the findings of the investigation based on evidence collated since the incident, including; witness initial accounts, Police statements, CCTV footage, and coroner court transcripts. The report also detailed the identified learning opportunities and the actions taken to date including the actions that would address the outstanding learning opportunities. In addition, the Cranbrook Team were currently compiling a 'storyboard' of the Paul's Hair World incident that was based on the Fatal Accident Investigation Report and would be produced in the form of a DVD that would be shared with all other UK Fire and Rescue Services to prevent a similar event occurring again. In response, Councillor Fred Walker requested that when the DVD was produced that it was circulated to all current Fire Authority Members, for their information.

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive advised that a 'Task and Finish Group' had been established in order to address all recommendation from the Coroner and learning opportunities identified throughout the internal investigation. One subject was 'Firefighter Physiology' this was a project that was progressing to develop prototype equipment for measuring core body temperature.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The ongoing recommendations and actions detailed within the report, be supported.
3. The national dissemination of identified learning, be supported.
4. A copy of the DVD once produced be circulated to all current Fire Authority Members.

106. ASSURANCE POSITION STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE BBC NEWS ARTICLE ABOUT RESEARCH LINKING HEART ATTACKS AND FIREFIGHTERS WORKING IN HIGH TEMPERATURES

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided a position statement as to the current and future advancements GMFRS had and was looking to implement in order to monitor the health and wellbeing of all frontline firefighters. This was in response to a BBC News article that reported on a study carried out by Edinburgh University and not the study itself. However, a copy of the study had been sought and further deliberation would take place accordingly.

Members raised a series of questions relating to fire training and the introduction and use of the Ultra High Pressure Cold Cutting System that were answered accordingly by the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive.

The Chairman requested that an update on the study carried out by Edinburgh University and the work undertaken by the Service to monitor the health and wellbeing of all frontline firefighters was reported to the new Fire Committee in due course.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. An update on the study carried out by Edinburgh University and the work undertaken by the Service to monitor the health and wellbeing of all frontline firefighters be reported to the new Fire Committee in due course.

107. UPDATE ON ATTACKS ON FIREFIGHTERS

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on attacks on Firefighters within GMFRS over the last 8 years and highlighted the increase in attacks during 2016/17 including the actions which had been put in place to address the issue. This report was requested at the last meeting of the Service Delivery Committee held on 9th March 2017 (Minute 52 refers).

Members were advised that since 1st April 2009 GMFRS had collated detailed data of attacks on firefighters via the Incident Recording System (IRS). In the period 2009 to 2016, there was a significant downward trend in attacks on firefighters however this trend reversed during 2016/17, with a 221% rise in attacks on firefighters when compared with 2015/16. To support all emergency services in protecting their workers and to deter attacks on emergency service staff 'The Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006' was introduced in February 2007. The Act provided for the ability to prosecute those that 'obstruct or hinder certain emergency workers responding to emergency circumstances'. To date this legislation had only been used once to prosecute people who had carried out attacks on GMFRS firefighters. It

was reported that 58% of all attacks on staff were associated with deliberate secondary fires with clear peaks around the Treacle period during October and November.

The Director of Prevention and Protection advised that a proactive campaign was being developed and delivered to improve awareness of the nature and scale of the problem. The campaign would be delivered ahead of the Treacle period and would aim to reduce attacks on firefighters through an educational approach however would still reference the Service's intention to prosecute offenders where this may be the most appropriate means to address specific attacks.

The Authority supported the campaign and the Service's intentions to prosecute offenders where required. The Chairman requested that an update on the outcomes of the campaign was reported to the new Fire Committee in due course.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The recent increase in attacks, be noted.
3. The development of a proactive campaign to address the issue of attacks on firefighters, including prosecution of offenders where appropriate, be supported.
4. An update on the outcomes of the campaign be reported to the new Fire Committee in due course

108. LEARNING FROM FATAL FIRES REPORT 2007-2016

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented the ninth 'Learning from Fatal Fires Report' that had been extensively used to inform the activities of GMFRS and reduce the impact of fire and support the work of other key partners.

Members were advised that the Learning from Fatal Fires Report was a nationally recognised approach to identifying the contributory factors that could cause a person to be more at risk from fire. From 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2016 a total of 188 people died in fire-related incidents in Greater Manchester and men were slightly more at risk than women. During the past three years men had accounted for 65.6% of accidental fire deaths and 66.6% of non-accidental fire deaths.

The report expanded on the evidence from previous years and continued to highlight that those factors that significantly increase a person's risk from fire were also the wider determinants of health. The data contained within the report identified an increase in fire related deaths compared to the previous

year's report. A copy of the 'Learning from Fatal Fires Report 2007-2016, was detailed at Appendix A of the report, for information.

Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood advised that a new 'Psychoactive Substance' named 'Spice' was being used by the homeless in Manchester City Centre and she welcomed the work that was taking place to understand the use of new 'Psychoactive Substances' and how this related to fire risk to reduce further incidents of this nature. She advised that there was an increase in Modern Day Slavery cases being reported and was this being considered by GMFRS. In response, the Director of Prevention and Protection advised that work was taking place with Greater Manchester Police regarding how to address this issue.

Councillor Fred Walker welcomed the inclusion of Safe and Well Visit with Home Safety Checks which began in 2015 and proved that the correct properties were being targeted. In addition, he stated that previous reports had included photographs of incidents and requested that these were included in future reports.

Councillor June Hitched welcomed the informative report and referred to the fact that mental health was an influencing factor in all the non-accidental fire deaths considered to be suicide and requested that further work take place with partnership agencies to work on reducing this figure. In response, the Director of Prevention and Protection advised that work was currently taking place with a number of mental health services and GMFRS had partnership arrangements in place with all four Mental Health Trusts across Greater Manchester.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised be noted.
2. The 'Learning from Fatal Fires Report 2007-2016, as detailed at Appendix A of the report, be noted and its wider circulation be supported.

109. QUARTER THREE 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 3 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 3 of 2015/16.

Members were advised that there had been 3,470 fires during Quarter 3 which was an increase of 437 compared with the same period in 2016/17 the increase was mainly associated with deliberate fires. Road traffic collisions attended totalled 356 which was an increase of 60 and there had been 3,753

false alarms recorded which was an increase of 223 incidents. Sadly there had been 7 fatalities from fires which was an increase of 4 compared to Quarter 3 in 2015/16.

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 3 scheduled activities in relation to Development Goals was detailed at Appendix D of the report.

Councillor June Hitchen made reference to hospitals in the Stockport and Tameside area having the highest volume of 'False Alarm due to Apparatus'. In response, the Director of Prevention and Protection advised that work was taking place with the hospital building managers to assist in reducing the occurrence of false alarms.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Quarter 3 2016/17 Performance against Key Performance Indicators, 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 3 2016/17 scheduled activities in relation Development Goals, as detailed in Appendix D of the report, be noted.

110. 2017/18 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 (KPIs) and any associated target forecasts for the 2017/18 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.

It was reported that as of 8th May 2017 GMFRA would become part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), under the 2014 Devolution Agreement. From this date all employees would fall under the GMCA which included an extended number of new incoming employees from partner organisations. The scope for an impact on reporting was yet to be fully

determined, and there may be a requirement to review the KPI targets and measurements as a result of this.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report, be noted.
2. The level 1 Key Performance Indicators and any associated target forecasts for the 2017/18 financial year, as detailed within the report, be approved.

111. CORPORATE AND INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-20 PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided a progress update against the Service's Corporate and Integrated Management Plan (CIRMP) 2016-20 activities for 2016/17 and served as a bridging document between the current Plan and the Mayor's Fire Plan.

Members were advised that following the approval of a 1.99% increase in precept for 2017/18, the plan was to make savings in a number of areas across the organisation. From 2009/10 to 2019/20 GMFRS would have delivered almost £42m of savings, amounting to a 37% reduction in budget.

Councillor Basil Curley welcomed the agreement between GMFRS and Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council to assist with ensuring hospital discharge arrangements were effective and to enable owner occupiers to remain in their own home through the installation of minor aids/adaptations and to carry out Safe and Well visits and he sought clarification whether this scheme would be extended across Greater Manchester. In response, the Chairman advised that a similar pilot scheme had taken place with Manchester City Council and he was keen to extend the scheme across Greater Manchester if funding was available. A Cost Benefit Analysis had taken place to demonstrate that the scheme was effective and provided a safer home environment reducing the risk of readmission to hospitals and reduce costs to the councils.

Councillor Fred Walker in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors at North West Fire Control (NWFC) provided an update on the successful implementation of Pre-Alerting that was an additional planned activity for 2016/17. He advised that Pre-Alerting was a system whereby a pre-alert message was sent to a station or fire engine to advise crews that their fire engine may be mobilised prior to the completion of the call handling at NWFC. This gave crews the opportunity to prepare for the incident coming through from NWFC and provided a vital head start, reducing response times and the potential spread of a fire.

Resolved: That the content of the report detailing the activities undertaken during 2016/17 and comments raised, be noted.

112. USING OFFERTON COMMUNITY FIRE STATION AS A DEMENTIA DRIVING ASSESSMENT SATELLITE CENTRE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the use of Offerton Community Fire Station as a Dementia Driving Assessment Satellite Centre. This report was requested at the last meeting of the Service Delivery Committee held on 9th March 2017 (Minute 54 refers).

Members were advised that in January 2017, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust began using Offerton Community Fire Station to host Dementia Driving Assessments. The partnership was the result of the extensive involvement of GMFRS with the Greater Manchester Dementia Action Alliance. This partnership met the needs of Greater Manchester residents who previously had to travel to the region's main driving assessment centre in St Helens. The Driving Assessments were taking place at Offerton Community Fire Station on a twice monthly basis and positive feedback had already been received from our partners and their clients.

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

113. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION: 7-8 MARCH 2017 - 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 7th and 8th March 2017 in Gateshead. 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 'Reform'. As part of the conference the Chairman of the Authority chaired a Keynote Session titled 'Governance and Devolution' with Tony Lloyd, Interim Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester (via video link), Councillor Chris Carter, Chairman of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Roger Hirst, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

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

114. INSURANCE PREMIUM INCREASES

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised of the changes to insurance discount rates and the impact this would have through increased motor and liability insurance premiums.

Resolved: That:

1. The increase to the motor premium, be noted.
2. The possible increase to the liability insurance premium, be noted.

CHAIRMAN