

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

HELD ON 28th JULY 2011

Present:

Councillor Barrie Holland (Chairman), Councillors Daalat Ali, Mohammed Ayub, John Bell, Dylan Butt, Henry Cooper, Tommy Judge, Iain Lindley, Paul Shannon, Robert Splaine, Fred Walker and Sandra Walmsley

Also in Attendance: Steve McGuirk (County Fire Officer & Chief Executive), Jim Owen (Deputy County Fire Officer), Peter O'Reilly (Director of Prevention and Protection), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Andrew Heywood (Area Manager - Prevention Services) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Dawson and Bernard Judge (Vice-Chairman).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business received.

4. INTRODUCTION TO THE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Director of Prevention and Protection gave a presentation on the work and management of the Prevention and Protection Directorate and the rationale for bringing various parts of the Service into the scope of this Directorate.

The presentation included an explanation of the following:-

- The new structure and progress towards its implementation;
- The role and areas of responsibility for both Prevention and Protection;
- Current areas of work and the future for Children and Young People Services;
- The impact and consequences of incidents;
- The role of Members on the Committee;
- How the new structure would integrate essential elements of the Service;
- How both the Prevention and Protection risk models work.

Resolved: That the Presentation and comments raised be noted.

5. QUARTER 1 PROHIBITION AND PROSECUTION ACTIVITY REPORT 2011/12

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided information on the prohibition and prosecution activity undertaken in pursuit of enforcing the Fire Safety Order during Quarter 1 of 2011/12 together with historical data relating to the same activity. In addition, the report set out the prosecution activity undertaken by Greater Manchester Police with the support of the Authority's Fire Investigation Team.

It was reported that the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRFSO) came into force on 1st October 2006 and applied to virtually all premises, with the exception primarily of single private dwellings. The Fire Authority had a statutory responsibility to enforce the requirements of the RRFSO, however, there were some exceptions where other agencies would enforce its requirements.

Members were advised that the level of information contained within this report would be expanded in future reports to incorporate all levels of formal enforcement activity such as the service of enforcement and improvement notices which the Service undertakes

Members welcomed the report and particular reference was made to the table of prosecutions that were either in or had been through the Court process. The Director of Prevention and Protection informed Members of the work which was taking place to improve interaction and engagement with the business community and how this would assist in reducing prohibition notices and prosecutions in the future.

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

6. MAJOR INCIDENT FIRE INVESTIGATION JOINT WORKING PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which introduced the 'Major Incident Fire Investigation Joint Working Protocol'. The document established a regional protocol for dealing with any fire incident which had resulted in serious injury or fatality to Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) personnel.

It was reported that the protocol outlined the following aspects of a 'Major Incident Fire Investigation':-

- Initiation protocol;
- Assembling a suitable team;
- Policies and procedures to be adopted;
- Processes to be followed;
- Range of Information sources;

- Relationship and working relationship with other agencies;
- Research and testing.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the 'Major Incident Fire Investigation Joint Working Protocol' and comments raised be noted.
2. The Committee support the implementation of the 'Major Incident Fire Investigation Joint Working Protocol'.

7. LEARNING FROM FATAL INCIDENTS REPORT 2007-2011

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought approval of the publication of the 'Learning from Fatal Fire Incidents 2007 – 2011' report which provided information in relation to fatal fire fatalities within Greater Manchester during 2007 – 2011.

Members were advised that the report provided detail and trends such as why, when and how fatal fires occurred, the community groups most at risk and whether or not a smoke alarm was fitted. GMFRS had a dedicated Fire Investigation Team and an extremely comprehensive fire investigation process which looked into the cause of fatal fire incidents and how these could be prevented.

The Committee welcomed the report and requested that the 'Learning from Fatal Fire Incidents 2007-2011' document was emailed to all Members of the Fire Authority and Greater Manchester MP's and MEP's, for their information.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The 'Learning from Fatal Fire Incidents 2007 – 2011' report, be approved for publication.
3. The 'Learning from Fatal Fire Incident 2077-2011' document be emailed to all Members of the Fire Authority and Greater Manchester MP's and MEP's, for their information.

8. CONSULTATION DRAFT STRATEGY FOR PROTECTION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 2011-2014

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which outlined the outcomes of the consultation on the Draft Strategy for Protection in the Built Environment 2011-2014 and how this had impacted upon the final version of the Strategy, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report.

A six week consultation process on the Strategy was undertaken to fulfil the Authority's responsibility under the 'Duty to Involve'.

Recommended: That:

1. Outcomes of the consultation process in relation to the Draft Strategy for Protection of the Built Environment 2011-2014, be noted.
2. The finalised Strategy for Protection in the Built Environment 2011-2014' as detailed at Appendix A of the report, be adopted.

9. LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY TRANSPORT FUND - KEY COMPONENT BID: GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUTER CYCLE PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which introduced the 'Local Sustainability Transport Fund – Key Component Bid: Greater Manchester Commuter Cycle Project' and provided detailed proposals on how GMFRS could commit to and support the project.

Members were advised that a recent bid submitted to the Department of Transport (DfT) by Transport for Greater Manchester to support and deliver a Greater Manchester Commuter Cycle Project had been successful. The aim of the Project was to increase the number of people cycling to work at a number of major commuting destinations through a series of interventions, which research showed would open up cycling as a genuine commuting option for more employees. This was a Key Component Bid, which was submitted along with a Large Project Bid to the DfT Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The outcome of the Key Component Bid was announced on 5th July, and Transport for Greater Manchester was informed that the full amount had been granted.

In addition, the report outlined the background to the bid, and how the project would support the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan 3. It also outlined how the project linked to the Development and Delivery Goals encompassed in the GMFRS Corporate Plan, and proposed how GMFRS could commit to, and support the delivery of the project.

It was agreed that a progress report on the implementation of this Project be submitted to this Committee in six months time.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. GMFRS explore the potential to support the Transport for Greater Manchester Commuter Cycle Project in the following ways:
 - i) To co-locate cycle parking facilities on GMF&RS property to take advantage of the secure premises they can offer, and the

possibility of using existing or new changing and showering arrangements;

- ii) To explore the use of GMF&RS property for cycle training and / or cycle maintenance instruction classes;
 - iii) To explore the potential for fire service staff to be involved in cycle training activities, particularly with regard to road safety training.
3. The Corporate Planning and Performance Directorate with the support from the Estates and Building Directorate and Prevention and Protection Directorate within GMFRS be directed to undertake the project development work as detailed within the report.
 4. A progress report on the implementation of the Local Sustainability Transport Fund – Key Component Bid: Greater Manchester Commuter Cycle Project' be submitted to this Committee on 29th March 2012.

10. NORTH WEST REGIONAL FIRE SAFETY TRAINING, SHARED SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which informed Members that the North West CFOA Task Group had developed and agreed the introduction of a new post to support the continuation, development and delivery of regional fire safety training, realising significant savings for all the North West Fire and Rescue Services and introducing the potential to generate income.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and the comments raised, be noted.
2. The move to a fire safety training shared service, be approved.

CHAIRMAN

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