

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

HELD ON 26th JUNE 2014

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Walter Brett, Lynda Byrne, Basil Curley, Jim Dawson, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Afia Kamal, Iain Lindley, Alan Matthews, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Brian Rigby, Michael Smith, Stella Smith, Fred Walker, Paul Wild, Steve Williams and Michael Whetton

Also in Attendance: Steve McGuirk (County Fire Officer & Chief Executive), Donna Hall (Clerk to the Authority, Wigan Council), Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director of Resources, Wigan Council), Jim Owen (Deputy County Fire Officer), Paul Argyle (Director of Emergency Response), Geoff Harris (Acting Director of Prevention and Protection), Ged Murphy (Director of Finance and Technical Services), Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor) and Shelley Wright (Director of Corporate Communications)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN 2014/15

The Vice-Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2014/15.

Councillor David Acton having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor David Acton be appointed Chairman of the Authority 2014/15.

Councillor David Acton thereupon took the Chair.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors June Hitchen, Afia Kamal and Paul Wild to their first meeting of the Authority and thanked former Councillors Hilary Fairclough, James Hennigan, Bryan Leck and Shelia Newman for their contribution to the work of the Authority over the years.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2014/15

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2014/15.

Councillor Tommy Judge having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor Tommy Judge be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Authority 2014/15.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN 2014/15

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2014/15.

Councillor John Bell having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor John Bell be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Authority 2014/15.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mohammed Ayub, Jim Ellis, Daniel Hawthorne, Bernard Judge, Lisa Walker and George Wilson.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

7. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman advised that the third phase of the North West Fire Control project formally went live on Wednesday 28th May 2014. Following extensive testing and detailed system checks, 999 calls for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service were transferred to the new North West Fire Control centre at Lingley Mere, Warrington at 6.45pm. Councillor Steve Williams, Member Champion for Fire Control spent the day in the Greater Manchester Control Centre on Wednesday 28th May 2014 for the switch over to North West Fire Control.
2. In light of this a 'Visit to North West Fire Control' in conjunction with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority would be taking place on Tuesday 22nd July 2014 commencing at 10.00am. This visit would allow Members to view NWFC now that it was up and running. All Members were invited to attend and transport from FSHQ had been arranged if required.

3. The Chairman provided an update on Operation County Guard - the latest period of Industrial Action took place over 24 hours between 0900 Thursday 12th June and 0900 on Friday 13th June and between 1000 and 1700 on Saturday 21st June 2014. GMFRS successfully mobilised to all incidents through the new arrangements at North West Fire Control. The strikes called by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) were the latest in a series that were over the Government's pension proposals for uniformed staff which remained unresolved. The Authority had always stated that this was a dispute between the FBU and the Government and this still remained the case. As with the previous periods of industrial action Emergency Fire Crews (EFCs) provided cover from key locations across Greater Manchester. Colleagues around the Service not participating in the strike provided support to the EFCs and to emergency cover as a whole. No further strike dates had been announced to date.
4. The Chairman advised that the Memorial Service for Firefighter Stephen Hunt would be taking place on Sunday 13th July 2014 at 2.00pm at St Ann's Church in Manchester and all Members along with their families were invited to attend.
5. The Chairman advised that the new Rochdale Fire Station was officially opened on 20th March 2014. A Member Visit/Tour of the new Fire Station had now been arranged to take place on Friday 25th July 2014 from 10.00am. All Members were invited to attend and transport from FSHQ had been arranged if required. All Members from Rochdale Council had also been invited to attend this visit.
6. The Chairman advised that a leaflet on the 'New Firefighter Training Site and Community Hub in Bury' had been tabled, for Members' information. This leaflet had also been sent to all Members at Bury Council, for their information. If any Members' wished to have any more copies of the leaflet to take to their own Councils please contact Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.
7. The Chairman advised that the Authority had submitted three bids to the Fire Transformation Fund. In response to the 'Facing the Future' report, authored by Sir Ken Knight, the Department for Communities and Local Government had made £75m available through Fire Transformation Funding 2015/16. The purpose of the funding was to provide fire and rescue authorities with an opportunity to apply for both resource (£30m) and capital (£45m) funding to support transformational change. Bids could be submitted into three lots; below £2 million, between £2 and £5 million and over £5 million. The largest bid that the Authority had submitted, which had the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner, was for funding to develop a joint Fire and Police Training and Development Centre on the new Training site at Bury. The bid to the middle pot was for the creation of a new Community Risk Intervention Team; a multi-agency team that would build on the great prevention work of fire, but would also have a

responsibility to respond to urgent medical cases on behalf of North West Ambulance Service. The smallest bid was for support funding to create an Integrated Prevention Hub in partnership with Salford City Council and Greater Manchester Police. The hub would particularly focus on youth engagement, but would also provide integrated support for families. A Member briefing to provide more detailed information on the Pilot Scheme would be arranged in due course.

8. The Chairman reminded all Members to complete their Declaration of Interest Forms and return them to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.
9. The Chairman reminded all new Members to stay behind at the end of this meeting to have their photograph taken to allow the Authority website to be updated.

9. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk which sought approval of the Terms of Reference for the new governance arrangements, the appointment of Members to the Committees/Panel for the 2014/15 municipal year and approved the revised Scheme or Members' Allowances to reflect these changes.

It was reported that at the meeting of the Authority on 24th April 2014 (minute 105 refers) it was agreed to retain the main Fire Authority, merge the Emergency Response and Prevention and Protection Committees to form one committee (Service Delivery) and create a new Collaboration and Integration Panel as part of the new governance arrangements to come into effect from the 2014/15 municipal year.

This new Service Delivery Committee would consist of 15 Members of the Authority, the same as each of the previous committees, and would be subject to political proportionality. In order to accommodate political proportionality principles, the new Panel would consist of 10 Members of the Authority plus the Chairman of the Authority. The Panel would be chaired by the Chairman of the Authority and would elect its own Vice-Chairman. The Panel would operate as a Working Group reporting via its Minutes to the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee. In addition, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority had been invited to appoint an AGMA Leader to sit on the Panel.

As a result of the change to the committee structure, consequential amendments would be required to the Scheme of Members' Allowances. Attached at Appendix 3 was the revised list of Special Responsibility Allowances, for Members' approval.

Resolved: That:

1. The new governance arrangements and Terms of Reference/Delegations to Committees, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
2. The revised Timetable of Meetings for the 2014/15 municipal year, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.
3. The amendments to the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2014/15 as detailed at Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.
4. The Authority's Committees be constituted for the 2014/15 municipal year as detailed below:-

Committee	Membership 2014/15
Service Delivery Committee (15 Members)	Councillor John O'Brien (Chairman), Lynda Byrne (Vice-Chairman), Councillors David Acton, John Bell, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Derek Heffernan, Bernard Judge, Afia Kamal, Iain Lindley, Amna Mir, Shaun O'Neill, , Fred Walker, Lisa Walker and Steve Williams
Policy, Resources and Performance Committee (15 Members)	Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell, Walter Brett, Lynda Byrne, Basil Curley, Barrie Holland, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen , John O'Brien, Stella Smith, Fred Walker, Michael Whetton, George Wilson and Paul Wild
Collaboration and Integration Panel (10 Members plus Chairman of the Authority)	Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Barrie Holland (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Mohammed Ayub, John Bell, Jim Dawson, Daniel Hawthorne, Bernard Judge, Tommy Judge, Alan Matthews, Shaun O'Neill and Brian Rigby
Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee (Standing Order 27 Suspended) (9 Members)	Councillor Brian Rigby (Chairman) Derek Heffernan (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Walter Brett, Jim Dawson, June Hitchen, Alan Matthews, Michael Smith, Paul Wild and George Wilson; Lisa Hindle and Francis Walsh (Independent Members)

11. AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2014/15 AND RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Authority noted a report of the Clerk giving details of notifications of changes of membership which had been received from district councils for the 2014/15 municipal year.

In addition approval was sought to the continuation of the appointment of the current two Independent Members of the Authority's Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee and Independent Person for a further two year period.

Resolved: That:

1. All changes having taken effect by 26th June 2014 the Authority's Membership for the 2014/15 municipal year was now as follows:-

BOLTON	Councillor Mohammed Ayub	Labour
	Councillor Linda Byrne	Labour
	Councillor Paul Wild	Conservative
BURY	Councillor Alan Matthews	Labour
	Councillor Stella Smith	Labour
MANCHESTER	Councillor Basil Curley	Labour
	Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood	Labour
	Councillor June Hitchen	Labour
	Councillor Tommy Judge	Labour
	Councillor Afia Kamal	Labour
OLDHAM	Councillor Derek Heffernan	Liberal Democrat
	Councillor Bernard Judge	Labour
	Councillor Steve Williams	Labour
ROCHDALE	Councillor Amna Mir	Labour
	Councillor Shaun O'Neill	Labour
SALFORD	Councillor James Dawson	Labour
	Councillor Iain Lindley	Conservative
	Councillor George Wilson	Labour
STOCKPORT	Councillor Walter Brett	Labour
	Councillor Daniel Hawthorne	Liberal Democrat
	Councillor Lisa Walker	Conservative
TAMESIDE	Councillor John Bell	Conservative
	Councillor Barrie Holland	Labour
	Councillor Michael Smith	Labour

TRAFFORD	Councillor David Acton Councillor Brian Rigby Councillor Michael Whetton	Labour Conservative Conservative
WIGAN	Councillor James Ellis Councillor John O'Brien Councillor Fred Walker	Independent Labour Labour

2. The appointment of Mr J. Stone as Independent Person be extended for a further two years.
3. The appointment of Mr F. Walsh and Ms L. Hindle as Independent Members of the Authority's Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee be extended for a further two years.

12. GMFRA APPOINTMENTS 2014/15

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to nominate Members to serve on the GMFRS Scrutiny Board (Partnership and Innovations Management Board) and Trustee of Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum Trust for the 2014/15 municipal year.

Resolved: That Members be nominated to serve for the 2014/15 municipal year as follows:

Appointment	Membership 2014/15
GMFRS Scrutiny Board (Partnership and Innovations Management Board)	Councillor John O'Brien (Chair) Councillor Derek Heffernan Councillor Michael Whetton
Trustee of the Greater Fire Service Museum Trust	Councillor Shaun O'Neill Councillor Amna Mir (Substitute)

13. NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS 2014/15

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to consider, pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985, the appointment of a Member of each constituent council to answer on behalf of the Authority questions raised during the course of meetings of their councils in relation to the discharge of the functions of the Authority.

Resolved: That Members be nominated for the purpose of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 for the 2014/15 municipal year as follows:-

Bolton	Councillor Mohammed Ayub
Bury	Councillor Alan Matthews

Manchester	Councillor Tommy Judge
Oldham	Councillor Steve Williams
Rochdale	Councillor Shaun O'Neill
Salford	Councillor James Dawson
Stockport	Councillor Walter Brett
Tameside	Councillor Michael Smith
Trafford	Councillor David Acton
Wigan	Councillor Fred Walker

14. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2014/15

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to determine its representation on outside bodies for the 2014/15 municipal year.

Resolved: That Members be appointed to represent the Authority on outside bodies for the 2014/15 municipal year as follows:-

Outside Body	Representation 2014/15
LGA Fire Commission	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority Leader of the Opposition
LGA Annual Assembly	Fire Commission representatives (Chairman authorised to cast the Authority's vote)
North West Fire Forum <i>(formally known as North West Fire and Rescue Partnership Board)</i>	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority Leader of the Opposition
Directors of the North West Fire Control Limited	Chairman of the Authority Councillor Fred Walker (Councillor George Wilson - Substitute)
North West Employers	Councillor Fred Walker
AGMA Executive Board	Chairman of the Authority (or Deputy)
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMAC)	Chairman of the Authority (or Deputy)
Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities (AMFRA)	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority (Councillor George Wilson - Substitute)

15. MEMBER CHAMPION APPOINTMENTS 2014/15

The Clerk submitted a report which requested the Authority to nominate Members to serve as Member Champions for the 2014/15 municipal year.

The Member Champion subject areas had been established in line with GMFRS's main priorities including a new volunteering subject area. The Chairman requested Members to provide expressions of interest to fill these positions on a cross-party basis.

The Authority disbanded the Member Champion subject area for Fire Control due to the North West Fire Control Project now being complete (minute 8(1) refers). The Chairman on behalf of the Authority took the opportunity to thank both Councillors Fred Walker and Steve Williams for the work they have undertaken and time given to this subject area over the past few years.

Resolved: That:

1. The following Members be appointed to serve as Member Champions to the following subject areas for the 2014/15 municipal year:

Member Champion for Absence Management: Councillor Barrie Holland
Member Champion for Children Young People: Councillor June Hitchen
Member Champion for Efficiency Savings and Sustainability: Councillor George Wilson

Member Champion for Inclusivity: Councillor Amna Mir

Member Champions for Member Development: Councillors John Bell and Lynda Byrne

Member Champion for Sprinklers: Councillor Jim Dawson

Member Champion for Health and Safety: Councillor Alan Matthews

Member Champion for Road Safety: Councillor Bernard Judge

Member Champion for Community Relations: Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood

Member Champions for the DV20 Operational Training Site: Councillors David Acton and John O'Brien

Member Champion for Volunteering – Councillor Steve Williams

2. The revised Member Champion Terms of Reference as set out in the report, be noted.

16. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS: TO NOTE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES (APPROVED BY POLICY STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS ON 29TH MAY 2014) AS FOLLOWS:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 1st May 2014 (approved by Policy Standing Sub-

Committee under delegated powers on 29th May 2014) were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 1st May 2014, be noted.

17. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2014 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 29th May 2014 (approved by Policy Standing Sub-Committee under delegated powers on 29th May 2014) were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 29th May 2014, be noted.

18. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2014 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 19th June 2014 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards held on 19th June 2014, be noted.

19. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT - 2013/14

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2013/14. The report outlined the Authority's Treasury Management Practices and provided actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2013/14. The report met the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and CIPFA Prudential Code.

Resolved: That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2013/14 be accepted.

20. CHIEF OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT - QUARTER 4 (1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2014)

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented the 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2013/14 – 1st January to 31st March 2014, 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:-

- Operational Incidents;

- Service Delivery;
- Youth Engagement;
- Prevention and Protection;
- Corporate Communications;
- Other news of interest.

Members' welcomed the informative report specific reference was made to GMFRS' Protection Officers joint working with Tameside Council's Environmental Services staff which had resulted in an increase in successful enforcements and how this joint working was now expanding to other local authorities within Greater Manchester.

Resolved: That the 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2013/14 – 1st January to 31st March 2014, including the comments raised, be noted.

21. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought approval of the revised Health and Safety Policy, as detailed at Appendix A of the report.

The Health and Safety Policy had now been reviewed and clarified roles and responsibilities relating to health and safety, GMFRS' approach to health and safety management and assurance around health and safety matters.

Resolved: That the revised Health and Safety Policy, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

22. QUARTER FOUR/YEAR END PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented the Service's year end outturn performance against the development and delivery goals contained with the 2013/16 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

Members were advised that over 2013/14 the Service had continued to significantly improve public safety with year on year reductions to fires in dwellings, fires in non-domestic properties as well as reductions to fire related deaths and casualties. During this period the Service had made further efficiency savings of £2.73m (cumulative of £32.8m over the last 3 years) whilst also improving the average speed of response to emergencies and life risk emergencies.

The Integrated Risk Management and Corporate Plan contained 22 new 'development goals' which represented the major pieces of work needed to reposition the Service. In Quarter 4 the Service had completed a further seven of these goals having now completed 16 of the 22 goals originally set out in 2011. At the last meeting of the Authority on 24th April 2014 (minute 101 refers) Members considered the IRMP / Corporate Plan update and approved the new corporate development goals for 2014/15. A summary of the IRMP

and Corporate Plan 2014/17, was attached at Appendix A of the report. A summary of progress against the corporate development goals for Quarter 4 was attached at Appendix B, both for Members' reference.

In conclusion, the development goals were progressing well with a minor delay to North West Fire Control (NWFC) which was necessary to enable systems testing prior to the transfer of GMFRS control.

Members welcomed the informative report and raised a number of comments and questions relating to the summary of year on year performance against the Service's publicly reported measures and targets with specific reference to completed home safety checks, accidental dwelling fires, cross boundary working and smoke alarm utilisation.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The year-end progress, highlights and Integrated Risk Management/Corporate Plan Summary for 2014-17, be noted.
3. The production of an internal communication plan to share and recognise staff and their work to protect and improve the quality of people's lives across Greater Manchester over 2013-14, be supported.

CHAIRMAN