

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON 31st JULY 2014

Present:

Councillor John O'Brien (Chairman), Councillor Lynda Byrne (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Derek Heffernan, Bernard Judge, Iain Lindley, Amna Mir, Shaun O'Neill, Fred Walker, Lisa Walker and Steve Williams

Also in Attendance: Steve McGuirk (County Fire Officer & Chief Executive), Paul Argyle (Director of Emergency Response), Peter O'Reilly (Director of Prevention and Protection), Billy Myers (Area Manager - Head of Protection), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Ted O'Brien (Area Manager - Head of Operational Training), Katie Davis (Youth Engagement Manager), Wayne Shields (Area Manager - Head of Fire Prevention) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Acton and Afia Kamal.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Lynda Byrne and Fred Walker declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8 – 'Campaign Activity at Political and Major Conferences held in Greater Manchester' by virtue of receiving a payment from a trade union within the last 12 months towards election expenses. Councillors Lynda Byrne and Fred Walker did not speak or vote on the matter.

3. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

The Chairman invited all Members to attend the annual 'Emergency Services Open Day' that was taking place on Thursday 7th August 2014 from 10.00am till 5.00pm at the intu Trafford Centre outside The Orient. The Open Day would include the following features:-

- Fire Demonstrations;
- Road Traffic Collision Demonstrations;
- Crime Reduction Advice;
- Home Safety Advice;
- Road Safety Zone.

Resolved: That the update provided, be noted.

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting when the following item is considered for the reasons detailed 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	GMFRA Statutory Duties – Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (As Amended 2005)	36	3. (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation, including the Authority)

5. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the first meeting of the Service Delivery Committee and provided an introduction on the role of the new Committee.

Members were advised that as part of a series of proposed improvements to the governance arrangements of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, the Emergency Response and Prevention and Protection Committees had merged to form the Service Delivery Committee that would consider substantive matters relating to Service Delivery including both emergency response and prevention and protection. A copy of the Committee's Terms of Reference was circulated, for Member's reference.

AGREED: That the introduction, be noted.

6. PREVENTION AND PROTECTION DIRECTORATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an overview of the activity that the Prevention and Protection Directorate had been involved in during Quarter 1 – 2014/15.

The Prevention and Protection Activity Report highlighted the work of the Protection Team which continued to result in the need for enforcement action including prosecution. The report also included information relating to the activity of the GMFRS Volunteers, the Contact Centre, Area Based Community Safety Teams and centrally based coordinators.

Members had an in-depth discussion and asked specific questions with regards to:-

People at Increased Risk of Fire (PAIROF) – It was reported that as a result of strong partnerships with health and social care teams, Community Safety Advisors were now engaged with the most ‘at risk’ vulnerable groups across communities. Their primary work now involved PAIROF referrals from partnerships and other agencies and where operational colleagues highlighted a PAIROF, these were also referred to the Community Safety Teams. This also included follow up activities and re-visits from the initial PAIROF referrals. The Committee welcomed this new initiative and asked a series of questions on the breakdown of PAIROF referrals per borough including the reasons for variations in figures across the ten boroughs. In response, the Director of Prevention and Protection requested Members assistance in asking other agencies such as social services to provide further information on vulnerable groups to enable the prevention team to better engage with them. Also, to advise Council Leaders on the work that was taking place in each of the boroughs across Greater Manchester. The Director of Prevention and Protection also agreed to submit a further report on the impact of influencing those most at risk from fire.

Youth Engagement – An update was provided on Firesetter Intervention, Alternative Curriculum programmes and delivery of ‘FireSmart’ (17 years and under), with reference to the number of new FireSmart referrals received in Quarter 3 and 4 2013/14. Members welcomed the success of the schemes along with the other successful programmes which the Youth Engagement Team delivers.

In addition, with reference to ‘Accident Statistics’ Members requested that future reports should include details of instances where there was a higher than average number of accidents within Boroughs/Departments.

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

7. EMERGENCY RESPONSE - DEVELOPMENT GOALS PROGRESS - QUARTER 1 UPDATE - 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which set out the current status and progress in Quarter 1 - 2014/15 made against the Corporate Plan development goals for which the Emergency Response Directorate had responsibility.

Members had a discussion on each of the Development Goals with specific reference to the following:-

Development Goal 11 – ‘Vary crewing arrangements on identified fire stations to ensure they are fit for purpose and meet the risk and demand levels identified in each area’ – it was reported that retained recruitment had taken place to fill any vacancies at Marple, Ramsbottom and Littleborough in preparation for any agreed future changes and recruitment had commenced for a retained evening shift at Mossley. Members asked questions on the recruitment process and training involved in becoming a retained firefighter

and if any of the Emergency Fire Crews living in the correct area could apply for these positions. In response, the Director of Emergency Response commented that the training of retained firefighters was provided by the trainers at the Training and Development Centre and local borough Officers he went on to add that additional educational support was being provided to the Emergency Fire Crews to assist them when applying for positions within the Service in the future.

Development Goal 14 – ‘Work with people with the right skills and attitude to deliver high quality, value for money services in a positive environment for everyone’ – it was reported that the ‘Ensured Risk Information Network’ (ERIN) was now working well and Operational staff were engaging in the process. An update on the data gathered to date would be submitted to the next meeting of the Service Delivery Committee (as requested by the Emergency Response Committee on 24th October 2013, minute 17 refers).

Development Goal 24 – ‘Continue to review and develop our business continuity arrangements to ensure we remain well placed to deal with disruption to our services’ – An update was provided on the co-ordination and implementation of the County Guard Plan. Industrial Action had taken place in the financial year 2013/14, and further strikes had occurred on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, May, 12th, 21st June, 10th July and 15 separate strikes each of 2 hours duration between 14th and 21st July inclusive in 2014/15. No further strike dates had been called to date however, more dates were anticipated. On 21st July 2014 from 1900 until further notice industrial action short of strike, namely a refusal to undertake voluntary overtime, non-contractual overtime or additional hours was taking place and a refusal to ‘act up’ had been implemented. This would mean that possibly 3 to 4 appliances could be unavailable for each shift on an on-going basis.

On each strike date the organisation had maintained the minimum requirement of the County Guard Plan to provide 21 pumping appliances at key stations crewed by Emergency Fire Crews. Where resources permitted, the enhancement policy had been implemented resulting in the provision of officers acting in the role of supervisory officers at the key stations and additional Resilience Pump(s) being stood up. An update was also provided on the commitment of the Emergency Fire Crews (EFCs) and Emergency Fire Crew Drivers (EFCDs), as well as the non-striking personnel, and the Trainers at the Training and Development Centre had been outstanding and ensured that resilience had been maintained within Greater Manchester

Development Goal 35 – ‘Review the design and functionality of our fire appliances and carry out appropriate modifications, to ensure they meet the technical requirements of our modernised approach to firefighting and rescue operations’ – It was reported that this was a new long term development goal which recognised the requirement to integrate, improve and modernise both fire appliances and the equipment which they carry.

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

8. CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY AT POLITICAL AND MAJOR CONFERENCES HELD IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised of GMFRS proposals to continue to undertake campaign activity at future political and major conferences held in Greater Manchester.

It was reported that arrangements were now in place for representation from the Prevention and Protection and Emergency Response Directorates to attend the forthcoming Annual Labour Party Conference, due to be held between Sunday 21st and Wednesday 24th September 2014 at the Manchester Central Convention Centre. GMFRS had secured a premium internal stand within the main conference hall, at a cost of £9,000, presenting an opportunity to focus on specific areas of prevention and protection. It was the intention to promote the GMFRS campaign to influence national legislation on the use of sprinkler and other types of suppression systems in the homes of people most at risk from fire, as well as encouraging business and domestic homes to install them as standard and promoting youth engagement provision and progression pathways. An external stand had also been secured, at a cost of £4,000, and would feature the community event vehicle, promoting future firefighting, and how changing risks, research and technological developments would shape the way GMFRS fight fires in the future.

The Prevention and Protection Directorate planned to secure a stand at the 2015 Conservative Party Conference, due to take place at Manchester Central Convention Centre in the Autumn (dates to be announced).

The Committee welcomed the report and suggested that information on 'People at Increased Risk of Fire (PAIROF) was included in the reference at the Annual Labour Group Conference. In addition, Labour Members who were attending the conference offered their assistance in promoting GMFRS campaign at the conference.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. Attendance at both the Annual Labour Party Conference 2014 and future political and major conferences held in Greater Manchester, be supported.
3. Information on 'People at Increased Risk of Fire (PAIROF) be included in the reference at the Annual Labour Group Conference.

9. COMAH AND PIPELINE SAFETY REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the statutory duties placed upon GMFRA in line with COMAH Regulations 1999 and Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 including the current and future workloads and evidence of GMFRA's compliance with the regulations.

The report also identified a potential financial threat contained within the recent HSE consultation in relation to the update of the COMAH Regulations in line with the Seveso III Directive, planned to be written into domestic legislation and come into force on 1st June 2015.

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

CHAIRMAN