

# Agenda Item 5

GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2013

Subject: EMERGENCY RESPONSE – DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
PROGRESS

Report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive

Report Author: Paul Argyle, Director of Emergency Response –  
Tel 0161 608 4016 Email argylepa@manchesterfire.gov.uk

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report sets out the current status and progress made against the Corporate Plan development goals which the Emergency Response Directorate has responsibility for.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides the Committee with an overview of the work carried out towards the Corporate Development Goals within Quarter 3.

## INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

2. In line with Corporate Governance arrangements, the Quarterly performance review has been completed. A full summary of directorate activity and status updates for all the Corporate Development Goals have been discussed at the relevant performance meetings. The following section provides an update on each of the Development Goals that the Emergency Response Directorate has responsibility for.

## CURRENT POSITION

Development Goal 6 - Scope the introduction of special rescue stations to focus our expertise and pursue excellence in service delivery, then make recommendations and implement as required.

3. The implementation plan's aim is to have two Technical Response Units (TRU), one at Ashton-Under-Lyne and one at Leigh Fire station.
4. Two open evenings were held, one on the 12<sup>th</sup> and another on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2012, both of these events were very well attended. The open evenings were to enable colleagues who may wish to apply for the teams, to gain a greater understanding of the TRU project and proposed roles.

5. Discussions are on-going between the Project Team Sponsor, Human Resources and Members of the Corporate Leadership Team regarding the possible crewing arrangements and relevant Terms and Conditions for the TRU roles.

Development Goal 7 – Review the current arrangements for Urban Search and Rescue, and their relationship with international search and rescue capabilities, recommend improvements and implement as required.

6. The implementation of the TRU will encompass the requirements of this Development Goal. Draft rosters have been developed to include the Urban Search and Rescue and International Search and Rescue (USAR/ISAR) requirements.

Development Goal 8 – Review the fleet of special appliances, make recommendations for improvements and implement as required.

7. A Special Appliance Programme Board has been established to oversee the individual projects which are:
  - The provision of a purpose built Wildfire Unit.
  - The provision of a purpose built Small Incident Unit.
  - The relocation of a number of Special Appliances.
  - The progression of the Incident Command Unit replacement.
8. The board has representatives from all the departments that are impacted upon by the projects, with those representatives consulting with the Operational Crews.

Development Goal 9 – Revise the current Rostering for Duty arrangements to reduce the numbers of staff needed to operate the system and create significant efficiencies.

9. At the commencement of the new duty system seventy-four additional roster lines were put in place to assist in managing the transition and provide some capacity to support corporate initiatives. The additional roster lines at Trafford borough will be removed by the end of January 2013 and several other lines have been removed from Cheadle, Philips Park, Stalybridge and Chadderton.
10. Work has started at Bury to remove the remaining six additional roster lines early in the New Year. The project remains on track to achieve the necessary staff reductions within the allotted timescales and as such produce the required budgetary savings.
11. Following the recent Watch Managers Gateway process the vacancies that have been held within Prevention and Protection will now start to be filled and this will accelerate the reductions in our operational establishment levels to those agreed within the Corporate Plan.

Development Goal 10 – Introduce appliances more suited to dealing with smaller incidents.

12. The interim vehicles have been further refined, following feedback from Operational Crews and the Fire Brigades Union.
13. The trial utilising the current fleet of 4x4's will recommence in Quarter 4 2012/13, with learning from their use fed into the project.
14. A bid has been submitted for capital funding and discussions have taken place during this Quarter on the feasibility of realigning some of the capital budget for appliance replacement to include the provision of a purpose built Small Incident Unit (SIU).
15. There will be an opportunity for Members to view a SIU at the rise of the Emergency Response Committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

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.

16. A review group has been evaluating and researching the non-SDS systems in GMFRS (and across other FRS's) and what their current status is; and in particular consideration has been made to any threats or opportunities with regard to each system in place. Learning and proposals will be presented to the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in January 2013.
17. Since the last update we have been working with HR colleagues to consider the current Terms and Conditions of those staff working at the current non-SDS stations. The current arrangements are fragmented and do not maximize the efficiencies of the systems deployed at each location and as such we would aim to provide consistency with regard to working times, allowances, and work routines, wherever possible.

Development Goal 12 – Review our arrangements for Incident Command, make recommendations and implement as required.

18. The Incident Command Review document was submitted for the consideration of Principal Officers on 25 September 2012.
19. Following feedback, changes are anticipated before it is submitted to the Corporate Leadership Team in Quarter 4 2012/13.
20. A draft Policy for the introduction of an Incident Command Academy has been developed. The Academy is intended to deliver many of the outcomes of the Incident Command Review in relation to training and improving the knowledge, skills and understanding of Operational staff. The Policy also covers the requirements for assessments of

competence to provide the assurance that we are as proficient as possible in the area of Incident Command.

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.

21. The annual Training Needs Analysis has been completed with the bulk of next year's Operational Training delivery being in support of the various development goals (in particular Development Goal 12 – Incident Command review and Development Goal 26 – Future Firefighting).
22. A review of the Operational Training Department is underway, utilizing our recognized change management protocols, with a view to changing some employee terms and conditions to support seven day working. This review aims to provide a more efficient and effective service to operational staff who also provide seven day cover.

Development Goal 20 – Provide new training facilities to improve real fire training for our firefighters.

23. A Memorandum of Understanding between Manchester Airport, Cheshire FRS and Greater Manchester FRS has been signed which has enabled us to progress the delivery of our second Compartment Fire Behavior Training (CFBT) site at Manchester Airport. The Window unit (producing high smoke volumes) has been moved from Oldham and a storage cabin has been installed. The CFBT units and the Classrooms, changing facilities etc. which are being jointly funded by the FRS partners are now in production and the whole site is on target to be open for use in April 2013.
24. The groundwork for the multi-rig at the Training and Development Centre (TDC) started in November 2012 and the units are currently being fabricated by the supplier. The whole site is on target to be open for use in April 2013.

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.

25. The Development Goal contains a number of components which are owned by a number of Directorates, for example ICT Resilience owned by the ICT Directorate and Recall to Duty owned by Emergency Response. Therefore, this Development Goal is currently being administered through the Business Continuity Team structure, overseen by the Project Manager.

26. To date there has been the adoption of the County Guard Plan and Audit of the Directorate Business Continuity Plans and a review of the Emergency Fuel Plan.

Development Goal 26 - Research and, where appropriate, develop and implement new or revised firefighting procedures, equipment and techniques with the aim of improving our firefighting capabilities and public and firefighter safety.

27. At the previous Emergency Response meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 a detailed progress to date report was provided, together with a Firefighting Demonstration held at the Training and Development Centre which all Members of the Authority were invited to attend.

#### OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES

28. N/A

#### CONSULTATION

29. N/A

#### RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

30. a) Financial and Procurement – Not applicable.  
b) Human Resources – Not applicable.  
c) Legal and Constitutional – Not applicable.  
d) Health and Safety – Not applicable.  
e) Sustainability – Not applicable.

#### RECOMMENDATION

31. Members are recommended to note the content of this report.

STEVE McGUIRK  
COUNTY FIRE OFFICER  
& CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

S. McGuirk  
(Proper Officer)  
23.02.13

This page is intentionally left blank