

**MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE,  
HELD ON FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

Gwyn Griffiths	Independent Member (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Russell	Manchester City Council
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham Council
Councillor Chris Boyes	Trafford Council
Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport Council
Catherine Scivier	Independent Member
Grenville Page	Independent Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Daniel Watson	Mazars External Auditor
Mark Dalton	Mazars External Auditor

**OFFICERS:**

Steve Wilson	GMCA Treasurer
Sarah Horseman	Head of Audit and Assurance
Rachel Rosewell	GMCA Deputy Treasurer
Damian Jarvis	GMCA Internal Audit
Helen Fountain	Principal Finance Manager, GMCA
Lindsey Keech	Head of Finance, GMCA
Karen Macrae	Finance Lead, GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny
Steve Annette	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny

**AC/37/20 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Steve Annette, Senior Governance and Scrutiny Officer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Audit Committee. The Chair then explained how the virtual meeting would be conducted and the procedure and protocols to be adopted throughout the duration of the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Mary Whitby (Bury Council) and Susan Webster (Independent Member)

**AC/38/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no items of personal or prejudicial interests declared in relation to any item on the agenda.

**AC/39/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
8 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 8 September 2020.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 8 September 2020, be approved as a correct record.

**AC/40/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA/GMP JOINT AUDIT PANEL HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the minutes of the Joint Audit Panel held on 10 September be noted.

**AC/41/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019-2020**

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer introduced the final version of the GMCA 2019/2020 Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The draft AGS had been previously considered and endorsed, pending minor amendments suggested by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 8 September 2020, these amendments had now been consolidated in the Statement.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the GMCA 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement, which is to be signed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive of the GMCA and published with the GMCA's Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, be approved.

**AC/42/20 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Damian Jarvis, GMCA Internal Audit introduced a report which provided an update on the regular review over the GMCA governance, risk management and internal control arrangements. The report comprised the evolving Covid specific risk register and the normal review of high level strategic and operational risks, 28 of which were of such significance that they required close monitoring by SLT and Chief Executive's Management Team.

Members were concerned that some elements of fire risk responsiveness, specifically in terms of operational delivery in response to acts of terrorism, presented risk levels that were unacceptable, and officers indicated that there were on-going and longstanding issues here that required resolution with FBU and staff representatives. Concerns were also raised about the absence of a coordinated response to the findings and change agenda actions arising from Grenfell, and certain timescales and targets for individual risk areas also gave cause for concern. It was agreed that the GMFS be requested to attend the next meeting to respond to these concerns.

Discussion also ensued about the Fire Service's responses to the Covid emergency and the extent to which contingency arrangements were in place in the event an entire Watch was to be compromised by the virus.

An update was also requested on progress made in implementing Programme for Change, accepting that the original delivery programme had been adversely impacted by the Covid emergency, as this had direct implications on budget setting for 2021/22.

Issues were also raised concerning risks in relation to (a) GMP iOPS, in terms of cooperative services with GMFS (b) food availability risks post Brexit (c) medicines availability issues post Brexit, and (d) public disorder issues arising post Brexit, each of which had relevance for the risk registers for GMP and GMFS.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Chief Fire Officer be requested to ensure that a senior officer and a senior political representative attend the next meeting to respond and provide assurances in relation to the issues raised involving operational responsiveness to terrorist acts, and the change agenda from Grenfell.

**AC/43/20      AUDIT OF 2019/20 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS – PROGRESS UPDATE**

Steve Wilson, GMCA provided an update on the timing of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts audit and a summary with of work done to date. The Committee noted that it would not be possible to finalise the accounts by the statutory deadline of 30 November, and that a further meeting of the Committee would be needed to consider the audit report.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the position on progress with the audit be noted, and that a further meeting of the Committee be convened, under the direction of the Chair, during December for the purpose of reviewing and approving the final audited version of the Statement of Accounts.

**AC/44/20      INQUORATE**

At this point the meeting became inquorate and consideration of the remaining items of business were deferred.

