

## **GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL**

Date: 14 May 2021

Subject: Greater Manchester Police Fire and Crime Panel – Balanced Appointment Objective and Co-opted Members

Report of: Liz Treacy, GMCA Monitoring Officer

---

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the statutory objectives set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act), and, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, to recommend that the Panel agrees to co-opt local authority members.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Panel is requested to:

1. Review its membership against its statutory objectives.
2. Agree in principle to appoint five local authority co-opted members
3. Seek the Secretary of State's agreement to the appointment of five local authority co-opted members
4. Receive a further report following the Secretary of State's determination

### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

Gwynne Williams  
Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA  
[williamsq@manchesterfire.gov.uk](mailto:williamsq@manchesterfire.gov.uk)

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner Functions to the Mayor) Order 2017
- The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) Order 2017
- The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) (Amendment) Order 2020

# 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act), sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and also the responsibilities of local authorities to establish and operate Police and Crime Panels.
- 1.2. The Act establishes the Police & Fire Crime Panel as a joint committee of the ten Greater Manchester districts, requires each district to appoint one member to the Panel and the Panel to appoint two independent co-opted members.
- 1.3. The Act imposes a duty on the districts and the Panel itself to meet so far as is reasonably practicable, the balanced appointment objective (schedule 6 paragraph 31 to the Act) which means that local authority members of a police and crime panel (when taken together)—
  - i. represent all parts of the relevant police area;
  - ii. represent the political make-up of—
    - the relevant local authority, or
    - the relevant local authorities (when taken together);
  - iii. have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the police and crime panel to discharge its functions effectively.
- 1.4. Following the coming into force of the Fire Amendment Order, there is a duty on the Panel to meet the "fire and rescue expertise objective" which means that members of the panel (when taken together) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the panel effectively to discharge its functions in relation to the fire and rescue.
- 1.5. To facilitate achieving the Balanced Appointment Objective, the Act allows the Panel to resolve to have additional co-opted local authority members, provided that —
  - i. that number of co-opted members is greater than two;
  - ii. the Secretary of State agrees that the panel should have that number of co-opted members; and
  - iii. the total membership of the panel, including that number of co-opted members, would not exceed 20

# 2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1. When the Panel was established all political parties with significant representation on Greater Manchester Councils were represented on the Panel but this has changed over time.
- 2.2. With the introduction of the "fire and rescue expertise objective", the Panel is asked to review its composition.
- 2.3. As a comparison, the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committees have local authority membership of 15 which produces a committee of 11 Labour, 3 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat local authority members.

2.4. To achieve a similarly balanced Police Fire and Crime Panel, the Panel could choose to co-opt five local authority members which would produce a Panel (as at the date of this report) comprised of 11 Labour, 3 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat local authority members and 2 independent co-opted members. The total membership of the Panel would be 17.

2.5. If the Panel were to decide to co-opt additional local authority members, appointments could be made to reflect the wishes of the relevant political group as to the members to be co-opted to the Panel.

2.6. Appointments could only be made following notification of the Secretary of State's agreement.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1. Recommendations appear at the front of this report.