

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

Date: 14/05/2021

Subject: Fire Plan for Greater Manchester

Report of: Mayor Andy Burnham; Deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes; Chief Fire Officer Dave Russel

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

This report introduces the Fire Plan for Greater Manchester. The Fire Plan is the overarching strategy for Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) for the next four years.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Panel is requested to:

1. Note the content of the Fire Plan as the overarching strategy for Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service for the next four years
2. Consider the priorities and objectives set out in the Fire Plan and provide a report or recommendations to the Mayor.

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

### **What is the Fire Plan?**

The Fire Plan is the overarching strategy for Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) for the next four years. In response to the Fire Plan, GMFRS has produced a delivery plan, which will be updated annually to adapt to changing risks and progress. The delivery plan provides more detail regarding the allocation of resources in response to identified risks and priorities. The Fire Plan has been produced by the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, in partnership with the Chief Fire Officer. Together the Fire Plan and the delivery plan deliver the functions of an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and

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<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

constitute the “local risk plan” which is a requirement of the Fire and Rescue National Framework.

### **Consultation and engagement**

- Initial consultation meetings took place in all 10 boroughs with Community Safety Partnership leads; the Police, Crime & Fire Team; and GMFRS senior managers.
- Engagement and agreement for the draft priorities in the Plan were secured with the Police, Fire and Crime Panel members.
- An online public consultation on the Plan took place between February and March 2021.
- GMFRS senior managers have engaged with their teams on the Plan as well as with representatives from Unite, Unison and the FBU.
- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor also engaged with representatives from the FBU.

### **What is in the Fire Plan?**

Following analysis of feedback from the public consultation, six priorities for GMFRS have been agreed:

1. Provide a fast, safe and effective response
2. Help people reduce the risks of fires and other emergencies
3. Help protect the built environment
4. Use resources sustainably and deliver the most value
5. Develop a culture of excellence, equality and inclusivity
6. Integrate our services in every locality with those of partner agencies.

Within each Priority are a series of commitments to our communities, including:

- Maintaining speed of response
- The dedication of resources to multiagency planning and training, and community safety partnerships
- Implementing recommendations from the inquiries into the Manchester Arena attack and the Grenfell Tower fire
- A continued integrated focus on the built environment to secure resident safety
- The delivery of a more ambitious blue light collaboration programme
- A refreshed Sustainability Strategy to meet the aims of GM's 5 Year Environmental Plan
- Attracting, recruiting and retaining a workforce that is representative of the population of Greater Manchester.

### **Outcomes and Aims of the Fire Plan**

There are three overarching draft outcomes identifying what we want the Plan to achieve:

1. Reduce deaths, injuries and damage caused by fire and other threats to our communities
2. Deliver the best value to the public with the least impact on the environment
3. Develop and maintain a diverse, high-performing, and healthy workforce.

The outcomes framework for the Fire Plan will ensure we deliver what our staff, partners and communities consider important, as well as our statutory responsibilities. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods, the framework will enable us to measure the Service's progress at delivering against the priorities and the commitments in the Plan and whether the aims above are being met.

As part of this framework, GMFRS will publish an annual outturn report outlining its progress against delivering the Plan, as well as any other risks identified. This report will then inform the subsequent year's delivery plan.

### **Equalities Implications:**

There are no negative impacts identified for people with protected characteristics. Within the Plan's priorities are a number of commitments to residents and staff with protected characteristics including targeting resources at the most vulnerable, and recruiting and retaining a more diverse workforce. One of the Plan's three outcomes is to develop and maintain a diverse, high-performing, and healthy workforce.

The Plan includes a commitment to implement a framework for collecting feedback from service users to gauge their satisfaction. The Plan also includes a continued commitment to gather and implement feedback from our staff. The outcomes framework will measure GMFRS' progress at delivering the Plan's commitments and outcomes.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures:**

One of the priorities within the Fire Plan is to use resources sustainably. There is a commitment within the Plan to refresh the Service's Sustainability Strategy to help the Service meet the aims of Greater Manchester's 5 Year Environmental Plan and ensure the Service is resilient to the potential impacts of the climate emergency. The Plan also commits to evaluating and implementing good practice from COVID-19 adaptations including work, meeting and engagement arrangements to ensure the Service is agile, resilient and sustainable. One of the Plan's three outcomes is to deliver the best value to the public with the least impact on the environment.

### **Risk Management:**

The Plan runs for four years. However, the delivery plan that sits beside it will be updated annually. This allows GMFRS to adapt to any new threats and opportunities that arise during the life of the Plan, and re-align resources to delivery of the Plan where necessary.

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Progress against the delivery of the Plan will be scrutinized by the Deputy Mayor's Executive as well as by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and steering group.

### **Legal Considerations:**

It is the function of the Mayor to approve the local risk plan by virtue of article 6 of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) Order 2017. Together the Fire Plan and the delivery plan deliver the functions of an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and constitute the local risk plan in connection with the discharge of the GMCA's functions as a fire and rescue authority.

Initial consultation was undertaken with all 10 of the city region's Community Safety Partnerships. A full online external consultation was undertaken between February and

March 2021. The Plan has been produced by the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, in partnership with the Chief Fire Officer. The development of the Plan has also been scrutinized by members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

### **Financial Consequences – Revenue:**

The Plan is the high-level strategy for GMFRS and makes resource commitments in line with the Service's medium term financial plan. This includes:

- Recruiting a further 350 apprentice firefighters over the next four years.
- Improving employment standards in line with the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter, including working towards paying a real living wage.
- Delivering a more ambitious blue light collaboration programme, including the development of a working group with Greater Manchester Police to explore the integration of training, service delivery and estates.

### **Financial Consequences – Capital:**

The Plan is the high-level strategy for GMFRS and makes resource commitments in line with the Service's medium term financial plan. This includes:

- A major overhaul of our fire stations and facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose and reflect the needs of our workforce and the public.
- Investing in state of the art operational training facilities to ensure they are as effective and flexible as possible, and improving training opportunities on stations.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- Fire and rescue national framework for England
- GMFRS Strategic Assessment of Risk
- Fire Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment
- HMICFRS Inspection Report for GMFRS
- HMICFRS State of Fire Report
- The Kerslake Report: An independent review into the preparedness for, and emergency response to, the Manchester Arena attack on 22nd May 2017
- Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report
- GMFRS: Consultation Responses Report