

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2024 IN THE BOARDROOM, GMCA
OFFICES**

PRESENT:

Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Amy Cowen	Bolton Council
Councillor Richard Gold	Bury Council
Councillor Chris Goodwin	Oldham Council
Councillor Barbara Bentham	Salford Council
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford Council
Councillor Rosemary Barratt	Stockport Council
Councillor Frankie Singleton	Stockport Council
Councillor Vimal Choksi	Tameside Council
Councillor Rose Thompson	Trafford Council
Councillor Yvonne Klieve	Wigan Council

Also in attendance:

Andy Burnham	Mayor of Greater Manchester
Kate Green	Mayor's Nomination for Deputy Mayor

Officers Present:

Ian Cosh	Chief Finance Officer, GMP
CFO Dave Russel	GMFRS
DCFO Ben Norman	GMFRS
Samantha Stabler	Interim Advisor to Panel & Head of Community Safety, Manchester City Council
Damian Dallimore	Assistant Director of Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice, GMCA
Melinda Edwards	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

PFCP/19/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Rabiya Jiva (Bolton), Councillor Tom Morrison (Stockport) (Substituted by Councillor Frankie Singleton), Councillor Dane Anderton (Wigan) (Substituted by Councillor Yvonne Klieve), Independent Members Majid Hussain & Angela Lawrence and Chief Executive Portfolio Lead Sandra Stewart.

PFCP/20/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

PFCP/21/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21st MARCH 2024

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

The Chair then invited Mayor Andy Burnham to provide the latest update on the preparation of Dame Vera Baird's report into the treatment of women in custody. A date had now been set for the publication of the report of 10th June, and the complainants & stakeholders have all been informed accordingly.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2024 be agreed as a true and correct record.
2. That Mayor Burnham's update on the forthcoming publication of the Baird Report be received and noted.

PFCP/22/24 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Andy Burnham, introduced a report notifying Panel Members of the procedure to be followed in the appointment of a Deputy Mayor and the candidate's qualifications in respect of the role. Points highlighted included:

- The Mayor reflected on his pride in how Greater Manchester was currently growing faster than the UK economy and with a growing population, but noted that the

growth came with extra challenges that placed further pressures upon both the police and fire services.

- The Mayor stated his equal pride that both Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) were both now in a position where they were outperforming counterpart organisations throughout the country.
- However, it was agreed that both services were still on a continuing path of improvement and that the current Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer remained best placed to lead on those improvements, and with that, it was vital that the Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime be someone who has the right to qualities to both support and challenge them in these roles.
- Given the single settlement and the newfound ability for a further aligned group approach, and the likelihood of changes in government at the end of the year – Greater Manchester found itself at the cusp of the biggest changes and opportunities yet seen – and the region needed to be ready to match the challenges that would come with these.
- Taking the aforementioned contextual picture into account – the Mayor felt there was no better person to continue to lead on Policing, Fire and Crime than his nomination for Deputy Mayor – Kate Green.
- Kate had throughout her career, provided a distinguished service to the country in a number of capacities. Having worked with the voluntary sector before entering parliament, with important work on addressing child poverty, before then using her position as the Member of Parliament for Stretford & Urmston to push the importance of public service reform in ensuring the best possible outcomes and opportunities for residents of our communities.
- The Mayor and Kate remained fully aligned on their ambition to ensure that the police force was strong and proactive in its approach, yet always fully accountable in terms of scrutiny.

The Chair thanked the Mayor for his introduction and then invited the Mayor's nominee Kate Green to make a presentation to the Panel – points highlighted included:

- The past 18 months in the role of Deputy Mayor had been an important period in which to have taken on the role and included a number of key successes.
- Successes were highlighted such as supporting the significant improvements seen in leadership, culture and performance at GMP & GMFRS; the continued tackling of

misconduct issues in both GMP & GMFRS; the launch of the new victims service and of the 10 year Greater than Violence Strategy; the publication of part three of the independent review into non-recent CSE; oversight of the Baird Inquiry into the treatment of women & girls in GMP custody; refreshes of both the Ethics Committee & the Hate Crime Action Plan; and the successful Fire Cover Review which had driven enough efficiencies to enable additional investment into protection & preventative work and the provision of a 51st additional fire pump into the city centre.

- Future priorities if appointed back into the role would include the continued delivery of what mattered most to residents of GM through the Police & Crime and Fire plans; committing to further work on building public trust and improving the culture within the fire & police services; tackling inequalities and disproportionality within the justice system; and improving outcomes for young people, particularly those at risk of harm.

Comments and Questions

The Chair then invited members of the Panel to comment on the proposal and ask questions of the Mayor and Kate Green.

- Members expressed concern about the effectiveness of the probation service and asked for further detail about work taking place with the service. Kate advised that as Deputy Mayor she had been working closely with Chris Edwards the Regional Probation Director and felt that he continued to provide exceptional leadership to the probation service, and they were seen as an integral part of the GM crime prevention family. The probation service had been significantly impacted by the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme of the mid 2010's, and the bringing back together of the service had been welcomed. But in that time many experienced probation staff had been lost, whilst numbers were now going up again there was still a real issue of experience. The ability to co-commission services in GM remained a very powerful exclusive tool.
- Members asked about collaborative work that had taken place with other PCC's throughout the country. It was advised that through the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners, Kate had been the Co-Lead for the Serious & Organised Crime Portfolio and that the Association made efforts to ensure that it spoke with a

single voice and what not used as a 'political football'. Collective work had also been taking place on addressing issues such as the rises in shoplifting by organised gangs and ensuring cultural improvements within police forces throughout the country.

- Members asked whether it was felt that GM advertised the improvements seen in the fire and particularly the police service enough – were there ways to better communicate these improvements? It was felt that the level of awareness was improving, but it was agreed this had not embedded everywhere. A careful balance needed to be maintained so that the public were also aware that this was not 'the end of the journey'. It was felt that many of the operations in the next phase in terms of tackling crime hotspots through Operation Vulcan and increased presence on the transport networks would make this good work more visible in the day-to-day life of residents.
- Members asked about how best the nominee would ensure that voice of victims remained heard. It was stated that it was vital that victims were provided the support they wanted, at the time they wanted, and for as long as they wanted. The Co-located Victims Service now taking place with GMP was just one element of the key work that had taken place on this over the past year, which also including online support, restorative justice, and regular surveys on the victim's experience – which had provided a huge amount of quality feedback. The Police & Crime Team sought to be regularly updated by elected members on whether their residents felt that their own experiences had been satisfactory.
- Members asked for further detail on the proposals to increase public trust in the police service. It was stated that the best way to do this was to ensure that the public experience of the police service met their needs. That their call was answered expediently, that arrives at their doorstep, and that pursues every possible line of enquiry in addressing their issues. But it was also important to acknowledge that public trust was also impacted by the wider picture of the lived experience – did people feel safe when on public transport? were children safe attending local parks? Elements such as clean streets, access to good healthcare, housing and jobs all played a part in public perceptions and it was therefore vital that partners worked to these goals across the system.

- Members noted that a key concern of residents was a lack of visible presence of police officers or PCSO's. How would it be ensured that the visibility increased given that there have been reductions in PCSOs? It was advised that it was not possible in the current climate to have police officers 'on every corner' but there was a concentrated focus on ensuring that there was a strong presence around hotspots – with the Operation Venture team already working with places where young people were at the most risk of becoming engaged in violent crime. This had already been very successful in reducing the number of weapons on the streets, and in engaging directly with these young people. The Mayor stated that the coalition cuts of the past 14 years had a continued impact on police presence, with it taking many years to repair the damage done. The Mayor sought to ensure that recruitment became stronger from within GM's own communities and that the proposed Manchester Baccalaureate could play a part in this through the development of a Blue Light Pathway in which the Panel would be asked to help in developing.
- Members asked how a zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour (ASB) was possible when the police force was frustrated by magistrates not taking significant action around ASB and the continued blight this brought to many communities. With an increasing concern highlighted on the usage of off-road bikes. It was advised that GMP had just received some funding from government to directly address ASB – this would be utilised through the Neighbourhood Policing Model. It was agreed that the off-road biking issue was a continuing blight on communities and the team were working closely with DCC Woods on bringing in the right capacity and capability to deal with this type of behaviour. There were two strands running currently - a tactical operation and high-level disruptive enforcement within communities.

The Chair drew the item to a close, asking that the Panel vote on the proposed Mayoral nominee. Following a vote by show of hands – the Panel voted unanimously in favour of supporting the Mayor's proposal that Kate Green return to the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire & Crime.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the process outlined for the appointment of the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime.

2. That following consideration of the Mayor's proposed appointment of Kate Green to the role, the Panel recommends that the Mayor proceeds with the appointment.

PFCP/23/24 GMFRS ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Ben Norman presented the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) 2024-25, detailing the improvement programme activities for the next year. The plan also incorporated the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), the production of which was a statutory requirement under the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework. Points highlighted included:

- This was the fourth and final delivery plan within the current wider four-year plan. With the 2025-2029 now being worked on.
- An ambitious suite of improvement programmes that aligned with the Mayor's strategic priorities was included within the Plan.
- Panel member feedback had been incorporated through the Police, Crime & Fire Steering Group.
- Work had taken place with the public, external partners and colleagues within the GMFRS to help in shaping a plan that was both ambitious and deliverable.
- The plan detailed how GMFRS was working towards an 'outstanding' rating from HMICFRS upon their return visits.

Comments and Questions

- Discussion took place between members and officers regarding the vital need to ensure that all residential properties, be they high, medium, or low risk met a minimum criterion for fire safety.
- Members sought information on how the public with comments about the Plan were responded to. It was advised that they were responded to individually, and that the comments they raised would then be used to inform the Plan going forwards. The quantity received and the themes raised could be shared with Members either outside the meeting or through the Steering Group.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report and update be noted.