

## Public Overview Document: Programme for Change Outline Business Case

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### The context

We are proposing to make changes to the way that Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service is managed, resources are allocated and how we collaborate with partners.

These proposals outline some of the most dramatic changes in the history of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service but they are important ones to make sure we are a service fit for the future.

These proposals will put us in a position where we can continue to keep people safe, but also ensure that we are a sustainable, efficient service.

There will be tough decisions to make going forward but this will be informed by using a robust evidence base.

The proposed changes are within the Outline Business Case – **and now we need the public to tell us what they think...**

### What does the Outline Business Case cover?

- It sets out proposals for a radical programme of change, laying the foundation for a stronger organisation that focusses on keeping communities safe and delivering a sustainable, affordable, frontline first emergency service.
- The document sets out proposals to protect the frontline, enhance firefighter safety, keep more firefighters in communities, whilst having a minimal impact on performance and maintaining response times.
- These proposals within the OBC have been developed following on from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor visiting and talking to staff from across GMFRS, and the desire to re-focus on the statutory functions of the fire and rescue service – responding, preventing and protecting the communities of Greater Manchester.

### What does it all actually mean?

#### *Changes to operational response -*

- Merge six stations into three (Bolton Central and Bolton North; Manchester Central and Phillips Park; and Stockport and Whitehill), building three brand new state-of-the-art stations that are fit for the future.
- New stations will be in the optimum locations to ensure that firefighters are able to respond quickly, with the best equipment possible.
- Our proposals are to keep 47 fire engines on the run (we currently have 56 but on average only 50 are on the run),
- These proposals will maintain response times whilst creating a sustainable future for GMFRS.
- The current average response time in Greater Manchester is 7 minutes 19 seconds, which is better than the national average of 8 minutes 45 seconds, and this is a position we want to maintain.

#### *Changes to Prevention, Protection and Youth Engagement -*

- We are proposing that operational crews will provide the majority of prevention and education delivery across Greater Manchester.
- The proposal is that frontline staff will be empowered to take on a greater responsibility for the delivery of fire prevention activities and messages to help the communities of Greater Manchester.

### **Impact of these proposals**

Some of the proposals within the Outline Business Case will have an impact on our staff. Staff from across the organisation are being engaged in a process separate to the public consultation and will have opportunity to contribute their views over the coming weeks.

### **How do people get involved in the consultation?**

We will be hosting an online consultation survey on [www.gmconsult.org](http://www.gmconsult.org) and this will be open to any member of the public, stakeholder or representative of a group or organisation that wants to express their views.

In addition to this, we will also be talking to those groups and organisations who regularly use the community facilities at the stations proposed to merge, as well as local politicians, communities of interest and people who live around the immediate geographical area of the stations proposed to change.

### **Timeline**

An online survey on the online platform ([www.gmconsult.org](http://www.gmconsult.org)) will be launched week commencing March 25 and will stay open for 9 weeks until May 31. This platform will allow people to comment on some of the key areas of the proposals.

People will also be able to contribute to the consultation by emailing us, messaging us on social media or sending us a letter.

### **Ways to ask questions or feedback on the proposals ...**

- [www.gmconsult.org](http://www.gmconsult.org)
- @manchesterfire – twitter and facebook
- [ProgrammeForChange@manchesterfire.gov.uk](mailto:ProgrammeForChange@manchesterfire.gov.uk)
- Consultation, Programme for Change Office, GMFRS HQ, 146 Bolton Road, Swinton M27 8US