

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2022 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

PRESENT:

Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Kevin Anderson	Wigan Council
Councillor Vimal Choksi	Tameside Council
Councillor Richard Gold	Bury Council
Councillor Steve Williams	Oldham Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tom Morrison	Stockport Council
Majid Hussain	Independent Member
Angela Lawrence	Independent Member

Also in attendance:

Baroness Beverley Hughes	GM Deputy Mayor
Ch. Supt. Rick Jackson	GMP
Deputy CFO Ben Norman	GMFRS
CFO Dave Russel	GMFRS
DCC Terry Woods	GMP

Officers Present:

Jeanette Staley	Head of Community Safety, Resilience & Neighbourhoods, Salford CC
Connell Hopkins	Business Support Officer, Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA
Lisa Lees	Strategic Planning Manager, Police & Crime Team, GMCA
Clare Monaghan	Director of Police, Crime, Criminal Justice & Fire, GMCA
Louis Richards	Lead Analyst, Police & Crime Team, GMCA
Rachel Rosewell	Deputy Treasurer, GMCA
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Steve Wilson	Treasurer, GMCA

PFCP/29/22

APPOINTMENTS TO THE PANEL

Jeanette Staley (Lead Support Officer to the Panel) advised members of the Panel appointments confirmed to date. It was stated that due to the timing of the meeting, taking place just a few weeks following the local elections – a number of confirmations were still to be received and would be confirmed in due course. The confirmations received to date were as follows:

Local Authority Appointments

Bolton – Cllr Mudasir Dean (Conservatives)

Bury – Cllr Richard Gold (Labour)

Manchester - TBC

Oldham – Cllr Steve Williams (Labour)

Rochdale – Cllr Janet Emsley (Labour)

Salford – Cllr David Lancaster (Labour)

Stockport – Cllr Tom Morrison (Liberal Democrats)

Tameside – Cllr Vimal Choksi (Labour)

Trafford – Cllr James Wright (Labour)

Wigan – Cllr Kevin Anderson (Labour)

Co-Optees (2 Conservative & 3 Labour)

Conservatives: Cllr Russell Bernstein (Bury) & Cllr Dylan Butt (Trafford)

Labour: TBC

RESOLVED/-

1. That the nominations to date be noted by the Panel.

PFCP/30/22

APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Nominations were requested for the role of Panel Chair for 2022/23 – a nomination was received for Councillor Janet Emsley, which was seconded and subsequently unanimously agreed.

Councillor Emsley took the Chair and requested nominations for the role of Vice-Chair for 2022/23. A nomination was received for Councillor Steve Williams, which was seconded and subsequently unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED/-

1. That Councillor Janet Emsley (Rochdale) be appointed as Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel for the municipal year 2022/2023.
2. That Councillor Steve Williams (Oldham) be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel for the municipal year 2022/2023.

PFCP/31/22 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor David Lancaster (Salford), Councillor Russell Bernstein (Bury), Councillor Dylan Butt (Trafford), Councillor James Wright (Trafford) and Carlos Meakin (GMFRS).

The Chair formally welcomed the new members to the Panel, and thanked outgoing Members Councillor Peers (Stockport), Councillor Whitham (Trafford) and Councillor Gwynne (Tameside).

PFCP/32/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

PFCP/33/22 MINUTES OF THE PANEL HELD ON 15 MARCH 2022

Members were asked to note and agree the minutes of the Panel meeting held on 15 March 2022.

It was advised that there were errors on the attendance and that CFO Dave Russel and independent members Majid Hussain, and Angela Lawrence would be added to the finalised version, with Cllr Rabiya Jiva added to the apologies and removed from the attendance.

RESOLVED/-

1. That, subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2022 be agreed by the Panel.

PFCP/34/22 RULES OF PROCEDURE

Gwynne Williams (Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA) presented the Rules of Procedure for 2022/23 to the Panel.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the Rules of Procedure.

PFCP/35/22 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT

Jeanette Staley (Lead Support Officer to the Panel) introduced a report providing Panel Members with a summary of complaints recorded in respect of police and crime matters between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022.

During the last financial year, a total of nine complaints had been received. All nine had concerned the GM Deputy Mayor in respect of policing and crime issues. Specifically, they had all arisen from the outcome of a statutory police complaint review under Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002.

However, under statutory obligations, the only right of appeal in relation to these types of complaints was via a judicial review, therefore the GM Police Fire & Crime Panel had no jurisdiction in this regard. Due to this position, all nine of the complaints were subsequently contacted and advised that they would need to progress to a judicial review if they remained dissatisfied with the outcome.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the information contained within the report.

Steve Wilson (Treasurer, GMCA) was invited to introduce a report informing Panel Members of the GM Police Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2022-23 to 2024-25 and the projected position on general and earmarked reserves. Point highlighted included:

- When the budget had been initially set there had been a residual gap of £8.5m, which it had been explained at the time would be resolved through a review of operational budgets and work on reserves and other areas of potential mitigation. This work had now been completed, and three areas of savings, some recurrent and some non-recurrent, had been identified, and had enabled the closing of the £8.5m gap.
- Work had also taken place with the GMP Finance Team to look at the Medium-Term Financial Plan. This had allowed for some significant areas of improvement that had enabled the identification of resources to deliver the Plan on a Page priorities set out by CC Watson as part of his improvement plan.
- Panel Members were asked to note that the vast majority of reserves were committed and their position within reserves largely reflected the timing of the investment. There was however a general fund that was not committed and was considered to be at a 'reasonable' level.
- Thanks were placed on record for the work of the GMCA Finance Team and GMP Finance Team in completing the budgetary work.

Comments and Questions

The Chair expressed thanks for the report and invited comments and questions from Panel Members.

- The GMCA Deputy Mayor also asked that her thanks be placed on record for the work of the GMCA and GMP Finance Teams, highlighting that the report as presented did not reveal the sheer scope of the work and meticulous scrutiny involved in its preparation.

- The Deputy Mayor drew Panel Members attention to Section 7 (Financial Risk Assessment). It was inevitable that a number of assumptions were required, assurance was provided these were prudent assumptions, but if the reality was to deviate from these, then there was the potential of financial implications that would need to be resolved.
- Members were also drawn to Section 6 (Community Safety Budget). This detailed monies devolved for various purposes to the Community Safety Partnership, totalling just over £4m. It was highlighted that governance arrangements for neighbourhood and local priorities were changing with the institution of locality boards following the bringing in of the Integrated Care Services system and other changes. It was expected that Community Safety Partnerships would be closely incorporated into locality boards. Therefore, it needed to be made clear going forward that the spending was closely aligned with the established priorities of these locality boards.
- The Chair drew members attention to section 4.4 of the report, highlighting GM priorities for policing over the next year. The Chair particularly welcomed the addition of sixty staff to be dedicated to Road Safety, an issue that had been highlighted a number of times by Panel Members.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the Greater Manchester Police Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2022/23.

PFCP/37/22 GMFRS – FIRE SERVICE REFORM GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

CFO Dave Russel was invited to introduce a report which brought to Members' attention the Government's recently published white paper on fire service reform 'Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service'. The report identified the main themes in the white paper and provided context to the paper's consultation questions. Key points highlighted included:

- The White Paper had been published on 18th May and was now subject to a ten-week consultation period. This consultation was framed around 48 questions which

GMFRS was in the process of considering before providing a response ahead of the closure of the consultation on 26th July 2022.

- It was felt that there were no 'surprises' amongst the questions and themes raised, which had been anticipated for some time. The Paper was welcome in the sense that it provided a view from the Government in terms of the future direction of Fire and Rescue Services within England.
- The Paper was themed around three key areas. People, Professionalism and Governance. In terms of the Governance pillar, it was felt that the preferred governance model was already largely in place within GM.
- The ten headline proposals arising from the White Paper were detailed to the Panel. From these it seemed clear that a number of parallels were being drawn in line with arrangements for police.
- It was advised that the GMFRS response to the consultation could be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

Comments and Questions

The Chair thanked CFO Russel for the background information on the White Paper and welcomed comments and questions from members.

- Members welcomed the fact that the governance model established in GM was considered the ideal model by the Government, as this would allow the service more time to consider other areas raised within the Paper.
- Members recalled the period in which the Fire Service ran a pilot where it provided extra support to other blue light services, namely the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). Whilst the pilot was a success, this was then never taken further due to resistance at the national level. CFO Russel confirmed that this would link into the 'future role of the firefighter' as part of the consultation. There were barriers at present stopping Fire and Rescue Services from occupying a more 'forward leaning' role into areas such as this.

- The Deputy Mayor commented on the White Paper, stating that given the amount of time it had taken to be produced, the resulting Paper proved to be underwhelming. However, it did contain a number of important issues, such as questions around the role of the firefighter such as the aforementioned support to NWAS. If approached correctly, this could have a significant positive effect upon developing Place Based Integrated Working. The emphasis upon development of leadership within the organisation was also strongly welcomed.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the summary be noted by the Panel.

PFCP/38/22 GMFRS – STRATEGY UPDATE

Deputy CFO Ben Norman presented a report to the Panel which outlined the development of a suite of strategies across Prevention, Protection, Response and the creation of a 'Framework for Integrated and Place Based Working'. Key points highlighted included:

- The most recent inspection report of GMFRS by HMICFRS had highlighted gaps regarding up-to-date strategy documents. To address this, a suite of strategies had been created that aligned with the ambitions of the Fire Plan and clearly set out the intentions of GMFRS during the period 2022-2025.
- The strategies were also aligned with key changes being made by partners across GM. This had included engagement work with local authorities across the region, and a close alignment with geographic changes and place-based superintendents.
- The Prevention Strategy had a clear person centric approach with clear targeting towards those at greatest risk of harm. There were three areas of focus – fire, road safety and water safety.
- The Protection Strategy included a strong focus upon the risk-based approach, with a proactive attitude towards inspection commercial premises. Support would be provided to those businesses that did not achieve compliance and closer ties would be formed with buildings regulators for greater influence and the planning and design phase.

- The Response Strategy formed to core part of the work of GMFRS. There was a focus on the understanding of how the assessment of risk supported appropriate preparation, and how this was best achieved both as an organisation, and in conjunction with key partners and the Local Resilience Forum. This Strategy also now noted changes to the operating environment, particularly those that were climate related such as the increasing scale of flooding and wildfire events.

Comments and Questions

- Members further referenced the pilot scheme with NWS that had taken place in 2013. As part of this they attended all cardiac arrest incidents in the GM region. Figures arising from this indicated that over the two-year period of the trial they attended 6,133 such incidents, and the cost benefit analysis from this indicated a saving to the NHS of approximately £5.5m. This really helped to highlight the importance of all services across the region working together.
- Members referenced that nationwide 'Firefly' initiative that had commenced in 2004. This initiative included the government providing £1m of ringfenced funding to GMFRS to spend on youth initiative schemes. The result of this was a 78% reduction in youth re-offending. This scheme now existed in a different form and was less effective, and so Members would welcome any moves towards bringing the initiative back in line with its original remit. It was advised that the Annual Delivery Plan detailed how the scope of work taking place with young people was increasing.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the overview of the three strategies, recognising the links to the deliverables within the current Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 and to the priorities and commitments within the Fire Plan (2021-2025).

PFCP/39/22 GMFRS – ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN

Deputy CFO Ben Norman was invited to present the GMFRS Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 to the Panel. This detailed improvement programme activities due to take place

over the next year and introduced the GMFRS Plan on a Page. 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:

- The Annual Delivery Plan detailed how the service was going to implement innovation and changes on top of the service's business as usual activities.
- This was the second of the delivery plans within the long-term scope of the Fire Plan. A report on how the service delivered against its aims in the first-year delivery plan would be brought before the Panel in due course.

Comments and Questions

- Members asked for further detail on work taking place to integrate the service with Locality Boards. It was advised that engagement had taken place with the Chief Executives and Leadership Teams in every GM locality, to help in aligning with their work, as well as aligning with local constabularies. Close working had been taking place with Community Safety Partnerships and it was hoped that the collaborations with Locality Boards would be as strong, and any feedback on how best to achieve and accelerate this would be welcomed. Members involved in Locality Boards stated that they were not seeing much of this in practice as yet and would welcome information on what was happening at 'ground level' in that space.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the content of the Annual Delivery Plan 2022-23
2. That GMFRS be asked to accelerate engagement on a more formal basis with GM's Locality Boards.

PFCP/40/22 PROPOSAL FOR MONITORING THE DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

Clare Monaghan (Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice & Fire, GMCA) was invited to introduce a report setting out a proposed framework for monitoring and reporting progress

and performance against the Standing Together Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025. Key points highlighted included:

- The proposal recognised the work that had already been undertaken in developing the joint work programme and was designed to complement the work that had already taken place at the steering group and signed off in January 2022.
- The suggested approach was to bring a report to each meeting based around each of the priority themes. The report contained an indication of the types of topics that would be covered.
- It was also important that Panel Members be given the opportunity to consider different work areas in greater detail, and so the priority overview reports would be complemented by more detailed 'deep dive' thematic reports that would be agreed with the Chair and incorporated into the Joint Work Programme.
- Alongside the reports above, it was also proposed that at every meeting Members receive the Performance Scorecard, with the content of the Scorecard grouped under each of the priorities. The Scorecard aimed to bring together key indicators to provide an overall picture of the general direction of travel and including national comparator data where possible.

Comments and Questions

- The Chair referenced the Scorecard, stating that by its very nature it was somewhat complex. However, if Members felt they did not understand the Scorecard, then they should contact officers so that it could be further developed accordingly for accessibility.
- The Deputy Mayor stated that it was important to gain reassurance from Members that this was of presenting the information was support them in being able to ask the questions they felt they needed to ask on key issues.
- Members stated that it was often easier to digest and understand complex information if the key figures were presented at the beginning of the report, with it then 'working backwards' from there. Officers stated that this approach could be adopted.

- It was asked whether the Scorecard would be better served by comparisons of 'like by like' quarters rather than just the previous quarter. It was advised that whilst officers would endeavour to do this, the unprecedented nature of the past few years due to COVID-19 meant that 'like by like' quarters were currently in short supply.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel agrees the proposed format for reporting progress against the delivery of the Standing Together Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025
2. That the Panel agrees the draft performance scorecard style and content.

**PFCP/41/22 DEPUTY MAYOR DECISION NOTICES IN THE PERIOD MARCH
TO MAY 2022**

Clare Monaghan (Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice & Fire, GMCA) presented a report highlighting decisions made in the period from March to May 2022.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the decision notices for the period from March to May 2022 be noted by the Panel.