

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2023 IN THE GMCA BOARDROOM,**  
**GMCA OFFICES, 56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Dane Anderton	Wigan Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Dave Arnott	Oldham Council
Councillor Rosemary Barratt	Stockport Council
Councillor Barbara Bentham	Salford Council
Councillor Vimal Choksi	Tameside Council
Councillor Amy Cowen	Bolton Council
Councillor Chris Goodwin	Oldham Council
Councillor Tom Morrison	Stockport Council
Councillor Rose Thompson	Trafford Council
Majid Hussain	Independent Member

**Also in attendance:**

Kate Green	GM Deputy Mayor
Baroness Beverley Hughes	GM Assistant Deputy Mayor

**Officers Present:**

Ian Cosh	Chief Resources Officer, GMP
Neil Evans	Director of Police, Fire & Crime, GMCA
Chief Supt. Richard McNamara	GMP
AFCO Carlos Meakin	GMFRS
Deputy CFO Ben Norman	GMFRS
Tracey Read	Head of Finance, GMCA
Rachel Rosewell	Deputy Treasurer, GMCA
Jeanette Staley	Advisor to Panel & Head of Community Safety, Resilience & Neighbourhoods, Salford CC
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
DCC Terry Woods	GMP

Jeanette Staley, Advisor to the Panel, detailed the appointments to be made for the new municipal year.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That it be noted that the following members have been appointed to the GM Police Fire and Crime Panel by the constituent councils for the municipal year 2023/24

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Rabiya Jiva (Lab)	Safwaan Patel (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Richard Gold (Lab)	Ummrana Farooq (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Luthfur Rahman (Lab)	To be advised
<b>Oldham</b>	Chris Goodwin (Lab)	Josh Charters (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Janet Emsley (Lab)	Shaun O'Neill (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	David Lancaster (Lab)	To be advised
<b>Stockport</b>	Tom Morrison (Lib Dem)	Frankie Singleton (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Vimal Choksi (Lab)	Barrie Holland (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Rose Thompson (Lab)	Simon Thomas (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Dane Anderton (Lab)	Paula Wakefield (Lab)

2. To note that the following Independent Members have previously been co-opted by the GM Police Fire and Crime Panel:

Majid Hussain

Angela Lawrence

3. To appoint five co-opted local authority members to achieve the Balanced Appointment Objective. Nominations have been received as follows:
  - a. To Be Confirmed (Labour)
  - b. Cllr Barbara Bentham (Salford) (Labour)
  - c. Cllr Rosemary Barratt (Stockport) (Labour)

- d. Cllr Dave Arnott (Oldham) (Conservative)
- e. Cllr Amy Cowen (Bolton) (Conservative)

**PFCP/22/23                    APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Nominations were requested for the role of Panel Chair for 2023/24 – 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 2023/24. A nomination was received for Councillor Dane Anderton, 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 2023/2024.
- 2. That Councillor Dane Anderton (Wigan) be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel for the municipal year 2023/2024.

**PFCP/23/23                    RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Gwynne Williams (Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA) presented the Rules of Procedure for 2023/24 to the Panel.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1. That the Rules of Procedure be noted.

**PFCP/24/23                    ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT**

Jeanette Staley (Advisor to the Panel) introduced a report providing Panel Members with a summary of complaints recorded in respect of police and crime matters between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

During the last financial year, a total of four complaints had been received. Two of these had concerned Greater Manchester Police, and so were outside the remit of the Panels Complaints Procedure – the complainants were advised accordingly about the correct way to submit these.

One of the complaints had been in relation to an independent review of Greater Manchester Police. Again, this was not within the scope of the Panels Complaints Procedure and appropriate advice was provided.

The final complaint received did meet the criteria for review by the Lead Chief Executive for Police, Fire & Crime, and had been assessed with a draft response currently awaiting sign off. The outcome of this complaint could be provided in next year's report or be brought to a meeting of the Panel.

### **Comments and Questions**

Members requested that the outcome of the complaint be brought to the Panel as soon as available.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the information contained within the report be noted.
2. That the complaint currently under review by the Lead Chief Executive for Police, Fire & Crime be brought to before the Panel once the outcome is available.

### **PFCP/25/23            APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor David Lancaster (Salford), Councillor Rabiya Jiva (Bolton), Councillor Luthfur Rahman (Manchester), Councillor Richard Gold (Bury) and Sandra Stewart (Tameside).

The Chair formally welcomed the new members to the Panel, and thanked outgoing Members Councillor Kevin Anderson (Wigan), Councillor Russell Bernstein (Bury), Councillor Dylan Butt (Trafford), Councillor Mudasir Dean (Bolton) and particular thanks to the outgoing Vice-Chair Councillor Steve Williams (Oldham).

#### **PFCP/26/23            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **PFCP 27/23            MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 23 MARCH 2023**

Members were asked to consider the minutes of the meeting that had taken place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 be agreed as a true and correct record.

#### **PFCP 28/23            GMP STOP AND SEARCH**

DCC Terry Woods was invited to present a report to Members on GMP's current performance relating to volumes of stop and search, including positive outcomes and work underway to understand and address ethnicity disproportionality.

Key headlines were highlighted. The first of these was that GMP was now seeing significant increases in the number of stop and searches being undertaken, however this was coming from a very low base and so only brought the force up to an average standing for a metropolitan force, so there was still more to do in this space.

Outcomes had been maintained which was a real positive. This meant that the searches were finding illegal items on those searched at the same sort of rate as previously, meaning that the searches were well targeted and not just a case of 'a numbers game'. Complaints as a proportion had decreased, and finally there was still disproportionality in

terms of those stop and searched, however the numbers were considerably better than the national average and there had been decreases seen, so it was going in the right direction.

An update was also provided in terms of the governance, scrutiny and 'reality checking' actions around stop and search to ensure that these improvements continue.

Reference was made to 'Section 60' search powers. It was felt that GMP had underused this previously and had been utilised several times in recent months to provide extra reassurance to communities after violent events. An example of the successful use of Section 60 at the Parklife Festival was highlighted.

### **Comments and Questions**

Members welcomed the news that disproportionality as a percentage of searches was reducing and asked how this would be pushed further; how complaints figures looked against those of comparator authorities, and the demographics of those submitting the complaints; and if disproportionality was taken into account in the use of Section 60 powers. It was advised that the next update report to the Panel could include provide further detail on all of the above points.

Members asked if the age profiles of those being stop and searched was captured. It was advised that this could also be included in the next report, but as a general picture, as would be expected, the age profile skewed heavily towards those under 30 – and from June 2022 to May 2023, out of circa 34,000 stop and searches undertaken, 18 were under 9 years old, 4340 were 10 to 15 years old, 3649 were 16-17 years old. It was known that stop and search was a key issue for young people in the region and work had been taking place through community panels to devise a 'know your rights' guide. It was vital to foster a respectful relationship between young people and the police which needed to work both ways.

Members referenced community scrutiny panels being set up to consider stop and search issues. How many of these were in place and where would they be located geographically? It was advised that this information would be fed back to the Panel.

A discussion took place following highlighting of the recent trend towards using dogs as weapons. GMP was actively looking at this issue, with a number of tragic incidents having

taken place in the region and the wider country in recent weeks – it was felt that this needed further debate, GMP had inquired with the Police National Lead for Dangerous Dogs to ask whether a national review would be implemented into the ownership of Bully XL dogs, with a response being awaited. Members stated that they would welcome a report on this at a later date.

Members asked how directly comparable figures on disproportionality were to other authorities. It was confirmed that all authorities were using the same methods and datasets and so could be directly compared.

Members stated that they would welcome a session offered at GMP headquarters on how data was received and used.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That future update reports also include further information pertaining to levels of complaints in relation to comparator authorities; demographics of those submitting complaints; disproportionality in relation to the use of Section 60 powers; and further age group data.
3. That further detail on Community Scrutiny Panels for Stop and Search be fed back to the Panel.
4. That further information on a potential national review of Bully XL ownership be fed back to the Panel when available.

#### **PFCP/29/23                    GMP FORCE CONTACT, CRIME AND OPERATIONS BRANCH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Chief Supt. Richard McNamara provided a call handling performance update to the Panel, highlighting the considerable progress made across key measures and providing context on the comprehensive measures implemented to address the performance issues identified and the continued upwards trajectory of Force performance improvement.

As of the time of the meeting, GMP was now the top authority in the country in terms of 999 call answer time. Another key area for improvement had been call abandonment rates, which at the worst point in 2021 had stood at 11% and recently had now been as low as 0.2%.

The significant investment placed into the contact centre was now seeing strong results coming through against all the nationally set parameters. Performance had risen to such an extent that the Home Office College of Policing had attended GMP Force Headquarters for a masterclass, in its position now as an exemplar of good practice.

### **Comments and Questions**

The Deputy Mayor emphasised what a good news story this was for the region's residents and put on the record her thanks to officers for the huge strides seen in performance and the level of work that went into addressing this. There was scope now with the technology to hand to understand how best use could be made of other channels to allow more interaction with GMP in the digital realm.

Members stated that they would welcome a visit to the central control centre to see it first-hand now, as the last Panel visit had been pre-pandemic.

A query was raised around repeat callers with mental health issues, particularly in the light of the Metropolitan Police's recent announcement about reduced response to mental health calls. It was advised that GMP would always help people, but the service nationally and locally had found that a lot of work was being done by the police that should fall under the workload of other agencies. Therefore, over the next 12 months the 'right care right person' approach would be further developed to ensure that the most appropriate response to each individual call was provided.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Panel notes the contents of the report.

Ian Cosh was invited to provide an update on the work underway in GMP to improve long term sustainability and reduce business-related carbon emissions.

GMP fully understood the need to meet the challenges posed by climate change and was expanding the team dedicated to this area to better address this scenario. There were issues around cost, particularly in terms of the vehicle fleet – this was a problem nationally and conversations had been taking place about the impact across the 43 forces and how adequate funding could be made available to best meet these challenges.

GMP was now using a 100% renewable energy source; success was had with the use of 700 solar panels across the force estate; the waste contract was currently out to tender with requirements around better waste segregation. Fleet remained the biggest challenge, but there was now some real investment being made available to 'green' the fleet with a number of hybrid vehicles now being introduced. Investment was also being made into telematic products to ensure better driving in terms of emissions and reduced use of fuel.

### **Comments and Questions**

Members accepted that it would be difficult for the force to move towards an all-electric fleet. So sought confirmation around plans to introduce enough emission free vehicles to achieve carbon neutrality. GMP officers confirmed this, it was vital to find the right balance between operational effectiveness and meeting the carbon challenges.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.

Rachel Rosewell (Deputy Treasurer, GMCA) introduced a report informing the Panel of the Greater Manchester Police Fund Revenue and Capital provisional outturn position for

2022/23. A positive position was shown with a break even achieved for GMP and for the office of the Deputy Mayor. £6.8m of reserves had been used, which brought the reserve position to £99.1m, in March it was expected that £20m of reserves might need to be used, so this was a welcome development.

### **Comments and Questions**

Members raised a query around the earmarked GMP reserves of £44.7m, it was noted that £3.5m of this was earmarked to allow for flexibility – but was the remainder for? It was advised that some was being reserved for significant insurance claims, some monies were for continued addressing of transformation from the special measures position – a more detailed split could be provided outside the meeting.

Members noted the in-year underspend saving of £3m - was this a one-off saving or one that would now be built in year on year? It was confirmed that it was a one-off, and that the underspend had been built into the following year's budget and so would not appear next year.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Panel notes the report.
2. That further detail on the split of the earmarked £44.7m GMP reserves be made available to Panel members.

### **PFCP/32/23                    2022/23 PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN POSITION FOR THE GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Rachel Rosewell (Deputy Treasurer, GMCA) introduced a report informing the Panel of the 2022/23 provisional financial position of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service at the end of March 2023 (Outturn). The overall position was a break-even position, however there had been in-year variances, mainly down to the increased costs associated with the new pay award.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Panel notes the report.

### **PFCP/33/23            GMFRS STRATEGY UPDATE – YEAR ONE PROGRESS AGAINST DELIVERY**

AFCO Carlos Meakin (GMFRS) introduced a report updating members on the progress made over the first year against the strategies aligned to the priorities within the Mayoral Fire Plan 2021-25.

Reference was made to the prevention strategy, which promoted fire safety, particularly targeting those most at risk. There were 21 commitments covering a number of thematic areas and items of note in meeting these commitments included the adoption of an online home fire safety check tool which provided an effective way of triaging the public; a Water Summit was also held resulting in the creation of a Greater Manchester Water Safety Partnership; education packages were also reviewed and improved – including the adoption of VR headsets to take out into community settings.

In terms of the protection strategy – extensive engagement had taken place with different partners to hold days of action; a number of fire investigation qualifications had been completed and an app to expedite the process had been developed.

In terms of the response strategy – every fire engine had been appropriately equipped and every fire watch trained in responding to a terrorist incident, this was the biggest undertaken during the year and a vital development. Further wildfire and flooding training capabilities had been developed.

A maturity assessment had been undertaken to help GMFRS understand where it stood on place-based working. The outcomes of this would inform this over the coming years.

#### **Comments and Questions**

Reference was made to a consultation process now underway on the 41 GM fire stations and how they were crewed. Councillors and the public were encouraged to engage with

this process through the online portal. It was asked if the Panel would have sight of the final results of the process, it was advised that a report could be brought to the September meeting of the Panel detailing the consultation feedback.

Members requested that another session be made available at the GMFRS Bury Training Centre.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Panel notes the report.
2. That a report detailing the outcomes of the current GMFRS consultation process be brought to the September meeting of the Panel.
3. That GMFRS officers arrange for Panel members to attend an away day at the Bury Fire Training Centre.

**PFCP/34/23                      GMFRS EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY PLAN 2023/24**

AFCO Carlos Meakin introduced a report providing details of GMFRS progress in meeting national productivity and efficiency targets for the 2021/22-2024/25 Spending Review period, and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) / Local Government Association (LGA) proposals for fire and rescue services to secure 2% non-pay efficiencies and a 3% productivity increase in the same period.

The attached plan outlined the work that would be undertaken to streamline processes, optimise resources and improve productivity through the use of new technologies and investment in the workforce.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Panel notes the report.