

North West Fire & Rescue Forum AGM

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2017

At

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside L30 4YD

Present:	Authority:
Cllr D Hanratty	Merseyside (Chair)
Cllr L Byrom	Merseyside
Cllr L Rennie	Merseyside
Cllr S Nelson	Cheshire
Cllr G Merry	Cheshire
Cllr D Acton	Greater Manchester
Cllr T Judge	Greater Manchester
Cllr K Houlton	Greater Manchester
Cllr F De Molfetta	Lancashire
Cllr D O'Toole	Lancashire
Cllr M Parkinson	Lancashire
Officers/Observers:	Authority:
Mr P Hancock	Cheshire/Cumbria
Mr C Kenny	Lancashire
Mr P O'Reilly	Greater Manchester
Mr D Stephens	Merseyside
Mrs J Henshaw	Merseyside
Mrs S Wainwright	Merseyside (Note taker)
Apologies:	Authority:
Cllr G Merry	Cheshire
Cllr B Rudd	Cheshire
Cllr J Willis	Cumbria
Mr S Healey	Cumbria
Mr K Mattinson	Lancashire

Agenda Item	Minute
1.	<p>Chairman's Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and opened proceedings.</p>
2.	<p>Appointment of Chair</p> <p>Nominations for the appointment of a Chair for 2017/18 were requested.</p> <p>Cllr D Hanratty was unanimously nominated and agreed by the Forum.</p> <p>Cllr D Hanratty was therefore appointed as Chair for 2017/18; and presided over the remainder of the meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Appointment of Vice Chair</p> <p>Nominations for the appointment of a Vice Chair for 2017/18 were requested.</p> <p>Cllr D Acton was unanimously nominated and agreed by the Forum.</p> <p>Cllr D Action was therefore appointed as Vice Chair for 2017/18.</p>
4.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received as shown in the table above.</p> <p><u>Action: It was agreed that letters of thanks for their support and contribution to the North West Fire & Rescue Advisory Forum be sent to Cllr Maloney, Cllr Bell, Cllr Doughty and Cllr Strong.</u></p>
5.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business on the Agenda.</p>
6.	<p>Items Requiring Urgent Attention</p> <p>There were no matters requiring urgent attention.</p>
7.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of 18th January 2017 were agreed as a true record.</p>
8.	<p><u>Actions from the Last Meeting</u></p> <p>Action 1 – Lobbying</p> <p>Following some discussion it was agreed that a letter of invitation to a future NWFRAF would be extended to the new Fire Minister, Nick Hurd, MP.</p>

Dan Stephens confirmed that David Lamberti has replaced Dan Greaves but the latter still has responsibility for FRS National Resilience. To date no response to an earlier invitation had been received.

Action: Letter of invitation to be sent to Nick Hurd, MP.

Action 2 – NWAS

The Chair advised of a meeting which took place in Merseyside with the Chair and Chief Executive of NWAS. An invitation to be extended to NWAS to attend a future NWFRAF.

The Chair to write to NWAS confirming the date of the next meeting and extending an invitation to attend.

Action 3 – Policing and Crime Bill

Action discharged. Item closed.

Action 5 – Devolution Deals

Greater Manchester:

Cllr Acton gave an update on the current position advising that the first meeting of the Fire Committee had taken place to discuss the terms of reference and governance. These issues are still to be agreed but Cllr Acton would share correspondence with the Forum. The Mayor takes overall responsibility for Fire with the day to day running of the Service being overseen by the Committee. Cllr Acton had been nominated as Chair.

It was agreed that lessons learnt from the process would be outlined in a presentation at a future Forum.

Cllr Nelson requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Mayor to congratulate the communities of Manchester for the manner in which they dealt with the Arena incident.

A discussion took place around the level to which Fire have a voice within the Combined Authority. Although Fire are very well represented it was agreed that a strong relationship with the Mayor was imperative.

Merseyside:

Cllr Hanratty advised on the position in Merseyside in that there is a proposal to reduce membership from 18 to 9. Consultation is currently ongoing with District Leaders and the Mayor.

Cllr Hanratty went on to confirm that Merseyside had invited the PCC to become a full voting member of the Authority, which had been accepted. A report will be presented at the Policy & Resources committed tomorrow. If agreed, a full report will go to Authority in December for implementation at the AGM in June 2018.

Nothing further to report on transition of responsibility for the FRS to the Mayor.

Actions:

- Cllr Acton to share terms of reference
- Lessons Learnt from Greater Manchester devolution process to be presented at a future Forum.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Letter of thanks to the Mayor of Manchester to congratulate the communities of Manchester for the response to the Arena incident.</u> <p>Early Day Motion – Sprinklers in Schools</p> <p>No further feedback. Action discharged. Item closed.</p> <p>Saughall Massie</p> <p>DS provided a full update later in the meeting as part of the Merseyside update. Action discharged. Item closed.</p>
9.	<p>Chairman's Update</p> <p>The Chair advised that Chris Williamson, MP had been appointed as Shadow Fire Minister and had extended an open invitation to the Fire Sector to visit or request items to be debated in Parliament.</p> <p><u>Action: Letter of invitation to be extended to Chris Williamson, MP to attend a future NWFRAF</u></p>
10.	<p>Constitution</p> <p>No changes to the current Constitution. J Henshaw to circulate.</p> <p><u>Action: J Henshaw to circulate Constitution.</u></p>
11.	<p>Priorities Going Forward</p> <p>C Kenny confirmed the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to share best practice • National Operational Guidance • Emergency Services Mobilisation Communication Plan (ESMCP) • Major restructure of National Fire Council Committee (NFCC) • Research and development – for example, BA procurement. <p>Cllr Acton went on to add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspectorate Process – first inspections will begin March/April 2018 with the intention to inspect all FRSS within 12 months. • Grenfell – with particular emphasis on regulations. • FBU Pay Offer <p>Cllr Nelson highlighted an announcement in the press today for all vehicles to be electrified by 2040.</p> <p>A discussion took place around how best to affect change for Fire and it was agreed that the relationships with the Elected Mayors was by far the best option.</p> <p>FBU Pay Offer – how we move forward and affect lobbying in terms of the whole structure of the fire and rescue service.</p>

	<p>Cllr Hanratty highlighted the speech given by Nick Hurd in that our support is required. Important that we use the NWFRAF as a voice to influence Government.</p> <p>DS suggested that Grenfell lobbying should focus on the role of approved inspectors.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p><u>Cllr Hanratty/Cllr Acton to discuss the best way of feeding information to the respective Mayors.</u></p> <p><u>Letter to Minister emphasising the focus on approved inspectors/regulations. Cllr Acton to share a draft letter to be sent to the Minister.</u></p>
12.	<p>North West FRS Update</p> <p>Greater Manchester: PO'R gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of Governance – 4 Year IRMP • Completed 1 Year Review of IRMP – bring to Authority and to Mayor • Ongoing discussions with Trade Union • 34 Recruits to start end of August – 64% from under-represented groups. • Grenfell – met with Mayor to emphasis the number of high rise premises within Manchester. High Rise Task Group set up. 4 cells within; Legal Cell, Technical Cell (nationally and internationally looking at best practice), Comms Cell, Finance and Procurement Cell. <p>Thanks to Lancashire FRS, Wiltshire and Dorset for mutual assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive debriefing following the MEN Bombing. • New Training & Safety Centre in place. Looking to put 10,000 young people through the training and receiving excellent feedback. Recent USAR exercise a success. • New station at Wigan • Before end of financial year will be in receipt of new 42 m and 32 m turntable ladder with more planned for the future. • 6 community response vehicles expected • Firefighter physiology – working with NFCC – technology built into BA sets. <p>Lancashire: CK gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the aftermath of Grenfell, Lancashire have inspected its high risk high rise properties, number are relatively low. • It was now providing Fire Safety Inspecting Officers to GMFRS through a NW protocol of mutual support • Emergency Cover Review currently out to consultation • 32 Recruits currently and 17 programmed for later in the year • Some recruitment progress with under-represented groups (5 female and 2 BME); but liaise with Manchester on improved outcomes • Combined Authority arrangements. Talks still taking place, but progress has stalled

- Lancashire County Council Elections returned a Conservative majority, but marginally Labour maintained CFA control.
- Lancaster Fire and Ambulance station still progressing
- Preston fire station rebuild in the planning stage – NWAS looking to increase presence and incorporate a central hub.
- Mental Awareness Sessions – complete for all staff. Now rolling out programme on Distress Management which promotes general management of mental health.
- Watch Managers and above attended a Leadership Conference, run in three sessions, where all the Executive Team laid out progress to date, direction of travel and expectations

Cheshire

PH gave the following update:

- IRMP 14 (17/18), budget and MTFP approved by the Authority on the 14 February. MTFP forecasts £4m savings. One amendment to the IRMP plan; review of the plans for the change in crewing of the second pumps at Crewe and Ellesmere Port (wholetime to on-call)
- 16/17 last year of the four year Emergency Response Programme - 4 new stations now operational (Penketh, Powey Lane, Lymm and Alsager). Number of new duty systems introduced (12 hour shifts across all wholetime stations, Day Crewing 1 on three stations, Nucleus at Macclesfield (previously wholetime), number of wholetime pumps now on-call pumps (Runcorn, Widnes/Penketh)
- Redeployments and new management structure (including revised flexi duty system) for the new stations/fire cover model implemented
- Safety Centre (Lymm) completed and ready to open its doors to schools in September
- Second wholetime recruitment campaign to commence 1 August 2017
- Second cohort of Apprentices currently being recruited
- PID and BC for Training Centre Project at Sadler Road approved and Project team established – (£7.5m capital investment)
- BLC on track and making progress – ICT, Estates and Strategic Change teams TUPE transferred; Corporate Communications and Business Intelligence teams currently co-located with TUPE transfer consultation concluding on 31 July. HR, Finance, and Legal teams to co-locate during August with TUPE transfer scheduled for 1 April 2018 (aligned to the Multi Force Shared Service implementation – MFSS) Stores and Procurement teams to TUPE transfer on 1 April 2018 (aligned to MFSS and building works). PO team scheduled to move to Clemonds Hey in early September. Programme on track for completion by April 2018. PCC invited to attend meetings of the Fire Authority with arrangements in hand to appoint him as a Member of the Fire Authority.

Cumbria

PH gave the following update:

- New Administration in place – Labour & Lib Dem with same leader Cllr Stewart Young and a new Deputy Cllr Ian Stewart
- New Portfolio Holder – Cllr Janet Willis (Lib Dem)
- New CFO – Steve Healey
- New Area Manager (Nathaniel Hooton from Cornwall FRS)
- Strategic Planning started with 2 joint meetings of CMT and Cabinet. £198m saved to date with anticipated further savings of £52m (£250m in total) up to 2020/21
- Hoping to see a three year budget consultation in October/November this year
- IRMP to be refreshed – currently 2016-20 but looking to update 2018-2022 with a longer term delivery plan aligned to the MTFP as opposed to the annual consultations in recent years
- Successful wholtime recruitment campaign with 12 new firefighters now on stations
- Significant challenges around RDS – down to around 370 and should be at 420. Looking at different options in IRMP around roaming tri-service officers.
- ORH review provides robust data intelligence to identify key strategic RDS stations where we will look to increase establishments to aim for 100% availability
- 6 New Fire Appliances arriving latest this calendar year with a capital programme to deliver a further 4 each year over the next 3 years.
- 2 Type B boats now in Service. New multi-purpose jackets ordered and replacement helmet programme to be delivered this year.
- Incidents of note: tragic RTC on A595 north of Bootle (Millom) – two 18 year old girls killed, one the daughter of one of our Bootle firefighters – fortunately didn't respond as off call.

Merseyside:

DS gave the following update:

Station Mergers

Planning permission was granted for the new station at Saughall Massie at the Planning Committee meeting on 20th July.

As the site is in the green belt the decision has been referred to DCLG to be considered for Call In by the Secretary of State.

Construction of the new Police and Fire station at Prescott is progressing well and is 4 weeks ahead of schedule at the time of writing.

Work is ongoing with St Helens MBC and NWS over a joint Ambulance and Fire station including a Make Ready facility at the Pilkingtons Watson Street site in St Helens.

Budget setting – potential impact of the pay offer

The Authority medium term financial plan assumes a 1% uplift in the pay bill in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

	<p>If the Authority is required to meet the 5% pay offer from existing budgets it will require additional savings of £1.2m in year 2017/18 rising to £2m by 2019/20 assuming 1% pay increases in 2018/19 and 2019/20.</p> <p><u>Industrial action planning</u></p> <p>Resilience contracts are issued on 1st April each year to inform Business Continuity planning. In light of the increased possibility of industrial action arising from the pay situation Officers have commenced contingency planning with particular focus on the National Resilience Fire Control.</p> <p>The CFO is also working on behalf of NFCC with Home Office and Cabinet Office on National industrial action planning.</p> <p><u>Authority reform</u></p> <p>At the AGM on 13th June the Authority approved a report recommending the setting up of a Working Group to consider reform of the Authority.</p> <p>The recommended option is to reduce the membership from 18 to 9 in order to maintain proportionate representation from each of the 5 Local Authorities.</p> <p><u>Police Fire Collaboration</u></p> <p>The Merseyside PCC Jane Kennedy has accepted an invitation from the Authority to sit as a Member with full voting rights under the representation model.</p> <p>This decision is expected to be ratified at the Policy and Resources Committee on 27th July.</p> <p><u>Firefighter recruitment</u></p> <p>The most recent recruit course have joined their colleagues operating the days and retained duty system at Aintree and Kensington fire stations. Both are operating as 2 pump stations at this time and will continue to do so until the conclusion of the next recruit course which starts in September.</p> <p>Thereafter we will change the crewing at 2 out of the 4 stations (Crosby, Eccleston, Liverpool City and Wallasey) from WT to days and retained by posting a full crew in to each station.</p> <p>The recruit contracts extend to EMR, MTFA and all of the other NJC work streams. This amounts to the introduction of a new duty system to run in parallel with the existing default 12 hour shifts system.</p> <p><u>Grenfell</u></p> <p>200 high rise, only 4 fails from 17 ACM clad blocks, but we are in the process of auditing the FRA in all 200 blocks.</p>
13.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business to report.</p> <p>Members were invited to visit the National Resilience Fire Control.</p>
	Meeting Closed 12:45 hrs