

North West Fire & Rescue Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2017

At

North West Fire Control, Lingley Mere Business Park, Lingley Green Avenue, Great Sankey,
Warrington, Cheshire

Present:	Authority:
Cllr D Hanratty	Merseyside (Chair)
Cllr S Nelson	Cheshire
Cllr B Rudd	Cheshire
Cllr D Acton	Greater Manchester
Cllr K Houlton	Greater Manchester
Cllr F De Molfetta	Lancashire
Cllr M Parkinson	Lancashire
Cllr J Willis	Cumbria
Cllr G Ellis	Cumbria
Officers/Observers:	Authority:
Mr P Hancock	Cheshire
Mr C Kenny	Lancashire
Mr D Stephens	Merseyside
Mr N Hooton	Cumbria
Mr T Hunter	Greater Manchester
Mrs S Wainwright	Merseyside (Note taker)
Apologies:	Authority:
Cllr L Byrom	Merseyside
Cllr L Rennie	Merseyside
Cllr T Judge	Greater Manchester
Cllr D O'Toole	Lancashire
Cllr G Merry	Cheshire
Mr S Healey	Cumbria
Mrs J Henshaw	Merseyside
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>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received as shown in the table above.</p>
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business on the Agenda.</p>
4.	<p>Items Requiring Urgent Attention</p> <p>There were no matters requiring urgent attention.</p>
5.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of 26th July 2017 were agreed as a true record.</p>
6.	<p><u>Actions from the Last Meeting</u></p> <p>Action 1 - Lobbying The Chair confirmed that a letter of invitation to attend a future meeting had been sent to the new Fire Minister, Nick Hurd, MP but as yet no response had been received.</p> <p>Action 2 – NWAS The Chair confirmed that a letter of invitation to attend a future meeting had been sent to the Chair and Chief Executive of NWAS, but as at the time of the meeting no response had been received.</p> <p>Action 5 – Devolution Deals Greater Manchester: DA gave an update on the current position advising that Terms of Reference for the Fire Committee had been submitted to the Mayor but had not yet been agreed.</p> <p>The Chair emphasised the importance of updates from Greater Manchester over progress with devolution.</p> <p>Merseyside: Nothing further to report at this stage.</p> <p>Actions from the previous meeting discharged. Item to remain open to prompt further updates.</p>

	<p>Action 6 - Shadow Fire Minister: A letter of invitation has been sent to Chris Williamson, MP.</p> <p>Following the meeting the Chair circulated a response from Chris Williamson requesting further meeting dates.</p> <p>Constitution: Action discharged. Item closed.</p> <p>Priorities Going Forward: CK advised that the NW Chiefs were meeting at the rise of NWFRAF and this matter would be discussed.</p> <p>Former Members of NWFRAF: Letters of appreciation sent to Cllr Maloney, Cllr Doughty and Cllr Strong. Action discharged. Item closed.</p>
7.	<p>Chairman's Update</p> <p>The Chair updated on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMICFRS: Recently attended a presentation where the HMICFRS set out their thinking over the forthcoming inspection regime. Three pilot inspections will be undertaken during January to April 2018 with the full inspection from April (for 18 months). Merseyside and Greater Manchester had expressed an interest to be considered for the pilot scheme. <p>A lengthy discussion took place into what the HMICFRS inspection would consist of, particularly as this would not encompass the governance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA Fire Commission: The Chair referred to a presentation at the Fire Commission explaining the new standards. Tony Hunter to circulate the slides to NWFRAF.
8.	<p>Priorities Going Forward</p> <p>C Kenny confirmed the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC governance and the regional position; • HMCIFRS • National Operational Guidance • Emergency Services Mobilisation Communication Project (ESMCP) • NFCC restructure and the mapping exercise of workstreams to ensure the North West is adequately represented • Research and development – procurement of structural fire kit. • Sharing of best practice, particularly around industrial action.
9.	<p>North West FRS Update</p> <p>Greater Manchester: Tony Hunter gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution: A draft strategy is being presented within the next few days to the Combined Authority, an example of one strand being a campaign on homelessness;

- Each workstream being reviewed commencing with transport and waste. Other areas will follow;
- Recruitment of wholetime firefighters. Current course of 30 (60% of recruits from under represented group).
- Training Safety Centre – new training site being utilised. Further work to include Police and multi-agencies.
- Firefighters Memorial in situ
- Order placed for 24 Type B appliances over a 3 year period with a call off order in years 4 and 5 if needed;
- Order placed for 2 turntable ladders, 32m and 42m;
- Technical Rescue Units ordered
- Community Response Vehicles ordered and due imminently
- 3 welfare vehicles planned for diversity needs

DA went on to advise:

- Over 500 high rise blocks had been inspected and thanked Lancashire for their support.
- Public enquiry on Manchester Arena incident being undertaken by Lord Richard Kerslake.
- New Tri Service Station at Wigan.

Lancashire:

Chris Kenny gave the following update:

- Recruitment campaign commenced.
- Utilisation of UCLAN graduates for retained.
- Missing Persons – training with Police
- Blue Light Charity Walk
- Aerial Appliance - process and evaluation presentation to the Authority on how this can enhance provision – proving beneficial
- Self Rostering.

KH asked if retained staff are given the opportunity to attend training at Bury and FSC. CK confirmed that training is undertaken as appropriate.

Cheshire

Paul Hancock gave the following update:

- Draft IRMP 15 (18/19) currently out for public consultation (concludes 2 Jan 2018). MTFP forecasts £4m savings. Reviews of duty systems for Penketh and Wilmslow fire stations and third ALP at Macclesfield.
- Review of the Authority's 2013 plans for the second pump at Crewe and Ellesmere Port (wholetime to on-call) on-going with assistance from Greenstreet Berman (external assurance). Final report to be presented to the Authority in February 2018.
- Safety Centre (Lymm) completed and opened its doors to schools in September. 1400 school children visited the centre during the first six weeks of term.
- Second wholetime recruitment campaign completed. 12 recruits appointed (9 male and 3 female).

- Second cohort of Apprentices selected and appointed (10 male and 2 female).
- Business Case for new Training Centre at Sadler Road approved by Authority in September – (£9m capital investment)
- Blue Light Collaboration Programme on track and making progress – ICT, Estates, Strategic Change, Corporate Communications and Business Intelligence teams TUPE transferred. HR, Finance, and Legal teams co-located during August with TUPE transfer scheduled for 1st 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). Leadership Team moved into Clemonds Hey (Joint Police and Fire HQ) in September. Programme on track for completion by April 2018. PCC invited to attend meetings of the Authority with arrangements in hand to appoint him as a Member of the Authority.
- Annual STAR Awards yesterday (Tuesday 17th October)
- Visit by shadow Fire Minister (Chris Williamson) on Friday 27th October.

Cumbria

Nathaniel Hooton gave the following update:

- PCC Options appraisal paper
- County Council savings of £198m achieved – further £75m required
- Reviewing IRMP
- Review of Duty Systems
- Review of on call provision
- Broadening of firefighter role
- Income generation consideration
- Multi Service Office (Tri-Service)
- 4 new appliances
- Replacement Technical rescue vehicles
- Joint incident command units

Cllr Rudd enquired as to how the Tri-Service Officer worked in Cornwall.

CK advised that this concept had been considered in Lancashire but had subsequently failed.

Merseyside:

DS gave the following update:

Station Mergers

The decision to approve the planning application for the new fire station on green belt land at Saughall Massie was not called in by the SoS and nor was it subject to a judicial review. A land valuation has been received which will allow for the transfer of the land to the FRA subject to approval from Wirral MBC which will be considered at a committee meeting in December.

Work will commence on site immediately thereafter with an anticipated 12 month build time.

The new Police FRS station and Prescot is subject for completion early in the New Year. Officers are in talks with NWS over them taking a bay and office space within the station despite them having previously opted out of the project.

NWAS are also actively considering joining the Authority at the new station planned for St Helens. There are a number of complications associated with the Watson Street site which are being worked through with the CEX of St Helens.

Firefighter recruitment and transition to days and retained crewing

The latest recruit course are scheduled to conclude their training in December. There are 5 women and one BME firefighter out of an overall course of 16. All of the recruits are conditioned to a 12 hour day duty and 12 hour overnight retained cover contract. The transition from wholetime crewing to days and retained at Crosby and Eccleston will take effect early in the New Year with the latest cadre of recruits dispersed amongst the existing cadre who are crewing 4 appliances across Aintree and Kensington fire stations.

The transition to days and retained at Liverpool City and Wallasey will take effect in late 2018/early 2019 following the conclusion of the next recruit course.

Authority reform

The working group meets following the Authority meeting on 19th October to consider the options for reform. The current proposal is for a reduction from 18 Members to 9 Members in order to maintain proportionality based on population size of the Local Authorities.

Two of the five LAs responded to the consultation requesting no change to their membership.

The Chair and CFO met with the Metro Mayor on 16th October to discuss governance for the Police and FRS within the Liverpool City Region CA which is now being actively considered by the Leaders and CEXs.

Strategic Resilience Board (SRB)

Cross examination by Home Office (HO), Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) and Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) over lack of resilience across the Sector.

The ongoing 'issues' over pay are very damaging to the sector.

There is a real risk of 'disinvestment' which is actively being considered.

HMICFRS

Hosted visit from HMICFRS

Areas of focus are efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL)

Specific interest in 'productivity' and latent capacity

Operational independence of a Chief Fire Officer versus a Chief Constable.

10.

Any Other Business

No other business to report.

Meeting Closed 12:45 hrs

Date of the next meeting: 24th January 2018