

North West Fire & Rescue Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2018

At

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

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

Agenda Item	Minute
1.	<p>Chairman's Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Cllr Acton (DA) presided as Chair in the absence of Cllr Hanratty and welcomed all present to the meeting and opened proceedings.</p> <p>Members of the Forum passed on their best wishes to Cllr Hanratty and wished him a speedy recovery.</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 18th October 2017 were agreed as a true record.</p> <p>Item 7: HMICFRS: Should read Merseyside and Cumbria had expressed an interest in being considered for the pilot scheme.</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 confirmed that discussions are still ongoing with the Mayor's office.</p> <p>Merseyside: DS advised that a meeting with the Metro Mayor and representatives from Merseyside and Cheshire FRAs and Merseyside and Cheshire PCCs is being arranged for February to discuss Police and Fire governance options across the Liverpool City Region (LCR).</p> <p>Officers have drafted a report setting out governance options as requested by the LCR Combined Authority.</p>

	<p>Action 6 - Shadow Fire Minister: Due to Government changes and Chris Williamson no longer holding the post of Shadow Fire Minister the visit scheduled for 9th February has now been cancelled.</p> <p>Action: A letter of invitation to be sent to the newly appointed Shadow Minister Karen Lee, MP.</p>
7.	<p><u>Chairman's Update</u></p> <p>The Chair had no issues to update.</p>
8.	<p><u>Fire & Rescue National Framework</u></p> <p>DA opened the floor for discussion on the Fire & Rescue National Framework document circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>CK commented on the question of the use of reserves. All agreed that this was a very complex area.</p> <p>DS confirmed that this issue had been raised strongly with Government through the National Fire Chiefs Council.</p> <p>Reference was made to the level of reserves held by the Police and other local authorities; albeit it was accepted that FRAs do not have this level of expenditure.</p> <p>Responses will be made by individual FRA's, LGA and the NFCC. Whilst it is useful to share experiences through this Forum it was not felt that a response on behalf of the NWFRAF was necessary.</p> <p>JH advised that the proposal to approve retirement and reengagement of Principal Officers via a public vote will be contrary to the Data Protection Act. Information cannot be published and cannot be made public. LB advised that this should be fed back to the LGA.</p>
9.	<p><u>Priorities Going Forward</u></p> <p>CK advised that 'Priorities Going Forward' will be reported on at every other meeting.</p> <p>Apprenticeship Scheme:</p> <p>CK raised issue around the changes to the Apprenticeship scheme, specifically a lack of essential decisions and impact on the development of the revised national apprenticeship processes.</p> <p>Whilst CK recognises the work ongoing through the NFCC, Lancashire are becoming increasingly frustrated.</p> <p>Action: CK to circulate a draft letter to Nick Hurd, MP. Comments requested by 7th February.</p> <p>HMICFRS:</p> <p>CK updated on the running order for the North West and highlighted a Seminar taking place on 31st January for Practitioners.</p> <p>A question had been raised around where NW Fire Control fits into the inspection regime. DA confirmed that he was speaking to Zoe Billingham and will raise this issue with her.</p>

	<p>Action: DA to speak to Zoe Billingham re the process for NW Fire Control.</p> <p>DA confirmed that he sits on the working party for HMICFRS inspection process and views and opinions have been taken on board. Governance arrangements will not be inspected other than by exception.</p> <p>ESMCP:</p> <p>Work continues.</p> <p>NW Chiefs will meet directly after this meeting.</p>
10.	<p>North West FRS Update</p> <p>Greater Manchester: Tony Hunter gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRMP: Following the move under the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and an extremely challenging multiple fatality incident the Mayor of Greater Manchester agreed that some elements of the current IRMP should be put on hold whilst considerations to risk modelling and rationale are made. • Recruitment: Recruitment is progressing and is likely to be increased in order to meet the vacancy needs. • Structure: Dawn Docx appointed as Deputy Chief Fire Officer 4th December, and assigned as Interim Chief Fire Officer from yesterday. Peter O'Reilly will retire beginning of February. 3 ACFOs in post. • New Fire station at Wigan; Police/Fire/Ambulance. • Training Site open. • Kerslake Review: Interim statement being prepared. Looking for agreement around how press deal with families. <p>Lancashire: Chris Kenny gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness: 4th year of assessing. Considering mix of wholetime and retained. Down to 33 people who are in fitness development. Culture well developed. • RDS: Moved away from a banding system. Moved back to T's and A's. • Stinger: Authority authorised the purchase of a further vehicle, whilst re-evaluating aerial appliances • Recruitment: 36 and 36 in forthcoming year. 630 firefighters. Back to full establishment figures next year. • Fire Awards: Nominated for a Partnership Award with the Police Drone collaboration and Stinger but unfortunately not successful. • PCC: Authority demonstrated that they can deliver efficiencies without any change in Governance. Collaboration is being fully explored.

- Training: Watch Managers and above attended a training programme – been extremely successful. Actors playing out scenarios which had taken place in the Service.
- Day crewing – self rostering.
- Pooling of PPE
- Business Continuity: CK explained the reasoning behind the conservative submission made to Home Office around Business Continuity.

Cheshire:

Mark Cashin gave the following update:

- Draft IRMP 15 (18/19) public consultation concluded on 2 Jan 2018. Outcomes to be considered by Members at the Authority meeting on 14th February. MTFP forecasts £4m savings. Key issues include reviews of duty systems for Penketh and Wilmslow fire stations and third ALP at Macclesfield fire station.
- 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 on 14th February 2018.
- Safety Centre (Lymm) opened to schools in September. 3000 school children now visited the Centre. Centre to be officially opened on 2nd March 2018.
- Fire Cadets recently returned from a school building project in Nepal (second school)
- Apprentices scheduled to go to Nepal in March to assist in building a third school.
- Second wholetime recruits course commenced (Week 3).
- Second cohort of Apprentices recently completed the Prince's Trust Team Programme and are currently working in various departments across the Service.
- Business Case for new Training Centre and ICTS suite at Sadler Road approved by Authority in September 2017 – (£9m capital investment). Contractor appointed and enabling works to commence in April. Main build scheduled for August/September
- New fire station at Chester on the existing site approved by the Authority
- Plans for a new joint Police and Fire station on the existing fire station site in Crewe being considered.
- Police recently occupied some office space on Frodsham Fire Station (retained station) as part of collaboration programme
- Blue Light Collaboration Programme on track and making progress – ICT, Estates, Strategic Change, Corporate Communications, Business Intelligence and Legal teams TUPE transferred (now employees of the Chief Constable). HR,

Finance, Stores and Procurement teams co-located during August 2017 with TUPE transfer scheduled for 1st April 2018. Leadership Team moved into Clemonds Hey (Joint Police and Fire HQ) in September. Programme on track for completion by October 2018 (revised date for the Multi Force Shared Service – MFSS). PCC invited to attend meetings of the Authority with arrangements in hand to appoint him as a Member of the Authority.

Cumbria

Steve Healey gave the following update:

- Preparations for HMICFRS (last tranche in Spring 2019) – Dave Dryden (North Yorks). Self-assessment.
- PCC written to Authority post Options Appraisal and agreed to continue with the voluntary collaboration arrangements. Strategic Board being established to give direction to the BLWG. MSOs, Joint ICUs, Breaking and Entering, EMR.
- CCC Budget consultation Nov – Jan. £214m saved since 2011, £70m more by 2021/22. Overall budget around £380m of which FRS is £17m. £33.5m to save next year (twice FRS budget). No savings proposed for FRS this year.
- IRMP consultation just closed. Changes to crewing in the Furness Peninsula. Moving from wholetime to Day Crew and introducing a new On-Call pump in to Barrow and invest in MSOs. Considering feedback to consultation and likely go to March cabinet.
- Strategic Review of On-Call Establishment – some stations not viable going forward but looking to strengthen establishment at neighbouring stations. Also looking at merging Crews.
- Commercialism – income generation. Humberside visit (Chris Blacksell) HFS Solutions CIC

Procurement

- 6 new Fire Appliances now in Service, further 2 on order plus a new driver training / water bowser.
- New multi-purpose jackets and helmets being issued over the next few weeks

Merseyside:

Dan Stephens gave the following update:

Budget Strategy Day – 25th January 2018

Assuming 2% increases on the pay bill based on the Green Book pay offer also being extended to firefighters and increasing precept to 3% additional £1.5m savings required by 2019/20.

Station Mergers

The decision to transfer the land to the FRA was approved by Wirral MBC in December. The decision was not called in, however the transfer must be subject to a period of public notice (advertised for 2 consecutive weeks in the Wirral Globe) as it has been deemed as for public use.

	<p>Work will commence on site immediately after the transfer with an anticipated 12 month build time.</p> <p>The new Police FRS station at Prescott is operational from today. NWAS have not yet given a definitive over taking a bay and office space within the station.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>HMICFRS</u></p> <p>Officer on the Technical Advisory Group representing Ops Coordination Committee, nominated Alex Waller from Cheshire.</p> <p>The CFO hosted a visit from HMICFRS on 18th January.</p> <p>The purpose of the visit was to 'sense check' the KLOEs and sub diagnostics. There is very specific interest in 'productivity' and latent capacity with a focus on work routines and rest periods.</p> <p>Using Merseyside to field test KLOE's prior to pilots being undertaken.</p> <p><u>Authority reform</u></p> <p>Late last year the Metro Mayor tasked Chief Executive Officers to progress. Invited to a meeting in November along with the Chief Constable and tasked to submit a report on options. A meeting with the Metro Mayor and representatives from Merseyside and Cheshire FRAs and Merseyside and Cheshire PCCs is being arranged for February to discuss Police and Fire governance options across the Liverpool City Region (LCR).</p> <p>Officers have drafted a report setting out governance options as requested by the LCR Combined Authority.</p> <p>PCC is on the Authority under 'representation model'.</p>
10.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business to report.</p>
	<p>DA thanked everyone for attending, wished them a safe journey onwards and closed the meeting at 12:15 hrs</p>
	<p>Date of the next meeting: 11th April 2018</p>