

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Date: 10th June 2025

Subject: GMFRS Efficiency and Productivity Plan

Report of: Dave Russel, Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the Productivity and Efficiency Plan for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) for the 2025/26 period.

Recommendations:

The Panel is requested to:

1. Note the contents of this paper and the report provided at Appendix 1.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

These assessments are carried out as appropriate by the responsible service area.

Risk Management

There are no specific implications with regards to this plan.

Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal implications with regards to this plan.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The specific implications are set out in the Efficiency and Productivity Plan.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no specific implications with regards to this plan.

Number of attachments to the report: 1

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A – Police, Fire and Crime Panel undertake the overview and scrutiny role.

Background Papers

There are no background papers.

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

Bee Network Committee

N/A – Police, Fire and Crime Panel undertake the overview and scrutiny role.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A – Police, Fire and Crime Panel undertake the overview and scrutiny role.

1. Background

1. As part of the Spending Review 2021, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and the Local Government Association (LGA) agreed that fire and rescue services in England would increase wholetime firefighter productivity by 3% and create 2% of non-pay efficiency savings between 2022/23 and 2024/25. The Spending Review 2024 reaffirmed these targets for 2025/26.
2. Last year, all Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) were requested to draft and publish Productivity and Efficiency Plans for 2024/25. The positive response from services has helped build a strong evidence base for the next Spending Review and demonstrated leadership in engaging with the productivity and efficiency agenda.
3. The Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention has requested that all FRAs continue to draft and publish a Productivity and Efficiency Plan for 2025/26. These plans will help the Home Office, NFCC, and LGA build a comprehensive picture of agreed targets and provide updates on forecast and actual savings achieved.

2. GMFRS Productivity and Efficiency Plan 2025/26

1. The GMFRS Efficiency & Productivity Plan 2025/26, provided at Appendix 1, outlines strategies to streamline processes, optimise resources, and improve productivity through new technologies and workforce investments. The final version has been published and reported to the Home Office by the deadline of 30th April 2025.
2. The plan will help support GMFRS to remain flexible, modern, and resilient to meet community needs. Despite financial challenges, GMFRS is committed to delivering efficient services without compromising safety, with the goal to provide the best value to the city-region.
3. GMFRS has a long-standing track record in delivering efficiency savings through a range of initiatives, including fire cover reviews, crewing arrangements, use of procurement to deliver savings, service reviews, predating our latest Efficiency and Productivity Plan.

4. Our Annual Delivery Plans will continue to outline the improvement programme for the upcoming year and how the Service will respond to risks to keep communities safe.
5. Alongside this, the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) outlines the Service's financial position, including revenue targets, capital investments, and funding requirements. Following a challenging Financial Settlement for 2025/26, the Service has identified an urgent need to increase our savings targets going forward. Our approach is to deliver savings of £0.677m as identified in the plan, and to proactively start to mitigate future shortfalls, as set out in the following paragraph.
6. To deliver efficiency savings and increase productivity in 2025/26, GMFRS is implementing a more efficient shift scheduling system, streamlining administrative processes, and setting a non-pay savings target of £0.677 million for 2025/26.
7. In addition:
 - A review of the detachment mileage policy aims to reduce travel costs by approximately £50,000 annually.
 - Collaborating with PBOs to access wholesale energy markets and implement risk management strategies for gas and electricity procurement is projected to save approximately £50,000 in electricity costs and £42,000 in gas costs for 2025/26.
 - Solar PV systems installed across the estate continue to generate income and save energy costs, with significant financial benefits since installation.
 - Grant funding secured through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme has supported LED lighting and solar PV installations, contributing to carbon reduction and annual energy savings.
 - Investing in fleet asset replacement and upgrades enhances operational response and appliance reliability. In addition, the Digital Fleet and Equipment Management System, Papertrail, will enhance transparency and governance, streamlining record-keeping for routine checks on PPE and equipment.
 - Specialist vehicle acquisitions and electric vehicle integration contribute to sustainability goals and cost savings.