

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2025 IN THE BOARDROOM, GMCA  
OFFICES**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Ummrana Farooq	Bury Council
Councillor Garry Bridges	Manchester Council
Councillor Richard Kilpatrick	Manchester Council
Councillor Abdul Hussain	Oldham Council
Councillor James Gartside	Rochdale Council
Councillor Shaun O'Neill	Rochdale Council
Councillor Barbara Bentham	Salford Council
Councillor Dan Oliver	Stockport Council
Councillor Jaqueline Owen	Tameside Council
Councillor Rose Thompson	Trafford Council
Councillor Kevin Anderson	Wigan Council
Duncan Craig	Independent Member
Tony Gordon	Independent Member
Steve Williams	Independent Member

**Also in attendance:**

Kate Green	GM Deputy Mayor
Lynne Ridsdale	CEX Portfolio Lead & Chief Executive, Bury Council

**Officers Present:**

Lee Rawlinson	Chief Resources Officer, GMP
ACC Colin McFarlane	GMP
Karl Gibbons	GMFRS
DCFO Carlos Meakin	GMFRS
Jeanette Staley	Lead Advisor to Panel & Head of Community Safety, Salford Council
Vicky Sugars	Assistant Director of Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice, GMCA
Melinda Edwards	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA

Lee Teasdale  
Mallicka Mandal  
Kate Green  
Peter Boulton

Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA  
Director of People Services, GMCA  
TfGM  
TfGM

**PFCP/32/25            APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED/-**

That apologies be received from Cllr Rabiya Jiva (Bolton), Cllr Sandra Walmsley (Bury), Cllr Robin Garrido (Salford), Cllr Stephen Homer (Tameside), Ian Cosh (GMP), DCC Terry Woods (GMP) and Neil Evans (GMCA).

**PFCP/33/25            APPOINTMENTS TO THE PANEL**

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the co-option of the following local authority members to achieve the balanced appointment objective is noted as:  
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar (Manchester, Labour)  
Councillor Robin Garrido (Salford, Conservative)  
Councillor James Gartside (Rochdale, Conservative)  
Councillor Richard Kilpatrick (Manchester, Lib Dems)  
Councillor Shaun O'Neill (Rochdale, Labour)
2. That it be noted that Bolton Council have made an amendment to their nomination for substitute member – and that Councillor Abdul Atcha has been appointed as said substitute.

**PFCP/34/25            APPOINTMENTS TO THE LGA FIRE COMMISSION**

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the following members be put forward as the GM Police, Fire & Crime Panel appointees to the LGA Fire Commission for 2025/26:

Councillor Shaun O'Neill (Rochdale)  
Councillor Kevin Anderson (Wigan)  
Steve Williams (Independent Member)

**PFCP/35/25                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Deputy Mayor Kate Green submitted a declaration of interest in relation to the Deputy Mayor's Police & Crime Decision Notice submitted as a for-information item. These related to being a governor of Manchester Metropolitan University. The Deputy Mayor had taken no part in the decisions relating to these.
2. For transparency, Independent Member Duncan Craig declared his role as the Chief Executive of an organisation (We Are Survivors) partly grant funded through the Deputy Mayors fund.

**PFCP/36/25                    CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were none.

**PFCP/37/25                    MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

The Chair asked the Panel to consider the minutes of the previous meeting.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be agreed as a true and correct record.

**PFCP/38/25                    GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY PHASE 2 (GTI2) OVERSIGHT GROUP**

Deputy Mayor Kate Green was invited to introduce an item providing an update in relation to work within GMFRS to assess and effectively implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 (GTI2) report. It was advised that the report comprised two sections, firstly detailing how GMFRS had responded to the recommendations to date and secondly providing information on the development of the GM Remediation Acceleration

Plan. The Plan was due to be approved by the GMCA in August and work had taken place with MHCLG on the construction of the plan.

Members were advised that due to delays over a number of years in funding streams being able to commence, there were still many residents in buildings which had not been satisfactorily remediated. Work was taking place with these residents to offer them as much assurance as possible. The change to buildings over 11m in height requiring remediation had significantly extended the remit of the number of buildings impacted across the region. A positive was that funding had now been received from MHCLG, with a request being submitted for further funding to meet the additional obligations being placed upon GMFRS and the region's local authorities.

A strong governance structure was in place to address the issues, going all the way back to 2017 when the Mayor had initiated the first High Rise Task Group, which had since evolved into the currently Task Group and supporting Strategic Oversight Group. Each GM local authority had now been invited to put forward a representative to sit on the Strategic Oversight Group and it was asked that the Members around the table speak with their officers to ensure that a relevant officer had been put forward.

DCFO Carlos Meakin and Karl Gibbons of GMFRS were invited to provide further details and highlighted that:

- A number of internal trackers had been put in place to ensure that the phase 1 recommendations had been implemented, and a presentation had been provided to the Deputy Mayor in January 2025 to set out the internal structure for ensuring phase 1 and phase 2 recommendations were being addressed. Alignment with the government response was being ensured and a series of timelines were in place to keep the force on track.
- Assurance was provided that no recommendations were ever closed off without the strategic oversight group robustly challenging the evidence that had been provided.
- It was advised that significant engagement had been taking place with residents to shape the remediation acceleration plan and that the Deputy Mayor advised had been imploring to the government that it was vital that residents were at the heart of all acceleration plans.

- Funding had been provided by government for the recruitment of officers into a dedicated remediation delivery team within GMFRS. This team would be at the heart of working with regulatory partners and residents' groups.

A presentation was then given to the Panel highlighting the barriers to remediation; the asks of the government; resident engagement on the final version of the plan; and the next steps to be taken.

## **Comments and Questions**

- Members welcomed the work to date and also wished to commend GMFRS on their response to the recent Hotspur Press fire in Manchester city centre.
- Members expressed concern about the lack of local authority representation so far on the pan GM bodies. It was advised that the Chief Executives of each LA had been written to, to ask for their support in nominating a relevant officer.
- Members referenced the importance of the establishment of clear standards and expectations. There had been a degree of confusion in the initial period after the Grenfell disaster in which some 'bad actors' had taken advantage of the situation undertaking works that were not required. Was there confidence that GMFRS would have the capacity where areas of confusion did still exist between managing agents and residents to provide appropriate guidance at the earliest stages – particularly in areas such as waking watches. It was advised that GMFRS had considerable experience over the preceding eight years in dealing with people who were required to put waking watches in place, which had huge cost implications. This experience was feeding the advice now given on ensuring safety and assurance for residents without resulting in unmanageable cost implications. Work had taken place to push for updated simultaneous evacuation guidance which would highlight the range of options available to keep people safe.
- Members sought further information on advice or direct training that would be given to residents who act as management company directors. It was advised that plans going forward included the development of specific right to manage guidance including where to go for support funding and highlighting issues that could be faced.
- Members asked if further information was available on the costs that might be involved in the remediation of buildings within GM. It was advised as the extent of

buildings requiring remediation was not known yet, the full cost implications in turn were not clear.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the progress made in relation to the GTI2 report recommendations be noted.
2. That members be asked to liaise with their authority officers to ensure that a relevant officer had been put forward for membership of the GM High Rise Strategic Oversight Group.
3. That GMFRS be commended for their response to the recent Hotspur Press fire in Manchester city centre.

**PFCP/39/25                      GMFRS ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT**

Deputy Mayor Kate Green introduced a report seeking approval for the publication of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's annual Statement of Assurance, in line with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. The document outlined the governance, financial, and operational arrangements in place for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

It was stated that the timing of the statement was particularly appropriate given the upcoming HMICFRS inspection of GMFRS.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Panel notes the contents of the paper and endorses the supporting documents found at Appendix A.

**PFCP/40/25                      GMFRS CULTURE FIRST UPDATE**

Deputy Mayor Kate Green provided members of the Panel with an update on the cultural journey that has taken place within GMFRS embodied by its Culture First approach. Exceptional work had continued to take place, which had been recognised at the national level, including the Culture First National Event at the Bury Training Centre and the recognition of the Culture First approach during the last HMICFRS review.

Mallicka Mandal (Director of People's Services, GMCA & GMFRS) was invited to highlight three major milestones that had been achieved through the Culture First approach. These were:

- In-depth cultural training had been rolled out to all staff called 'Strengthening Inclusive Culture'. This had helped staff to reflect upon their behaviours and how they engaged with colleagues.
- The professional standards team was now in place to conduct all investigations.
- In encouraging women to apply to work for the Fire Service, a campaign had been undertaken which has resulted in a 50% increase in expressions of interest.

### **Comments and Questions**

Members noted that the strategy was due a relaunch in September 2025 – how often would updates be brought on the strategy? It was advised that following the launch of the new Fire Plan, the supporting strategies were then gradually launched throughout the year with a full refresh every four years.

Members asked about work being undertaken on culture with local authorities and grassroots community groups. It was advised that a dedicated attraction team was in place made up of female and racially diverse firefighters who attended local community events to talk to the community and undertake easy to understand sessions on the requirements to become a firefighter.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.

## **PFCP/41/25            SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES: POLICE & CRIME PLAN PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Deputy Mayor Kate Green presented a report providing analysis and commentary on the most recent (March 2025) Performance Update data for each of the ten Police and Crime Plan Priorities. Showing precisely where progress was being made and which areas required more attention.

It was highlighted that the metrics had shown an increase in confidence and trust in GMP through independent surveys which was very welcome. These reflected improvements being seen in other metrics by GMP such as extremely fast call response times, improving incident attendance speeds and a drop of 17% in neighbourhood crimes.

There were still concerns around increases seen in retail crime, though it was welcomed that retailers appeared to be increasing confident in reporting these types of crimes following a lot of work through the GMP chaired Retail Steering Group.

Another area of concern for the public was gender-based violence; domestic violence & abuse; and serious sexual offences. More offences were now being brought to justice, more offenders were facing trial and more positive outcomes were being delivered by GMP. The new Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders continued to be trialled and had now been rolled out to five districts across the region.

## **Comments and Questions**

Members stated that they would welcome further benchmarking in the figures against national and local targets. It was advised that ways of improving the data delivery was always being sought. Benchmarking was not possible in some areas due to differing ways of data collection but the possibility of more benchmarking against comparator areas would be looked into.

Members raised a question on priority 8 around drug alcohol and wider addictions, asking why the data being used appeared to be older than that of other priority areas. It was advised that health related data was not always aligned with the data collected directly by GMP, which sometimes resulted in older statistics.

Members referenced cards being made available detailing helpful contacts for escaping domestic violence situations. It was advised that it had been found that card contacts often quickly went out of date, and that the internet was much more widely used for outreach offers. The Deputy Mayor advised that the Gender Based Violence panel would welcome input from members on establishing a best way forward.

Members referenced people come into hospital settings with clear domestic violence injuries. Was work taking place to establish a policy with hospitals on asking the right



questions to disclose the facts and help the victims and bring the perpetrators to justice. It was advised that some good programmes, particularly in primary care, were in place to education front line healthcare professionals on spotting the signs and asking the right questions around suspicions of domestic violence. So it was a concern that this was not taking place in all acute settings, and this would be taken up through the relevant boards.

Members referenced issues raised around officers being deployed with access to Naloxone, an emergency drug for rapid treatment of drug overdoses. The Deputy Mayor advised that there were significant levels of ongoing discussion around this between the Deputy Mayor's office, Greater Manchester Police, the National Police Chiefs Council and the Home Office. It was vital that if it was to be deployed that efficacious use of it was key, and custody suites would be an obvious starting point for any trial deployment. – this remained an ongoing conversation across the region and the wider country.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.

#### **PFCP/42/25            POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – PRIORITY 5: REDUCING AND PREVENTING NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME, RETAIL CRIME, AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Deputy Mayor Kate Green presented an overarching report on progress made in priority area 5 (Reducing and Preventing Neighbourhood Crime, Retail Crime, and Anti-Social Behaviour) of the Police and Crime Plan. This report provided a highlight summary of progress against all the actions outlined under this priority, so that the Panel could assess progress against this priority in its totality.

#### **P5 Spotlight Report: Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and Safer Summer Town Centre Plans**

Deputy Mayor Kate Green advised that the Safer Summer Town Centre initiative had now commenced across all 10 GM districts in collaboration between GMP and local authorities. This rang alongside the regular initiatives such as work on the nighttime economy and Op. Vulcan initiatives.

## **Comments and Questions**

Members welcomed the event that had taken place to mark the launch of the Safer Summer Town Centres campaign – stating that it had been a great example of partnership working within Greater Manchester.

Members emphasised the importance of ensuring extra resources for hotspot locations within Manchester City Centre. The Deputy Mayor agreed, stating that statistics showed the disproportionate effect the city centre had on many of the serious crime metrics in the region. Therefore specific strategies and resources would always be in place for these hotspots.

Members expressed concerns around heightened racial tensions, and welcomed increased collaboration with GMP on addressing these concerns at the local level.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That Members note the priority 5 highlight report progress update
2. That Members note the Priority 5 spotlight report on the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and Safer Summer Town Centre plans and campaign.

## **PFCP/43/25            POLICE AND CRIME PROGRESS REPORT – PRIORITY 6: IMPROVING ROAD AND TRANSPORT SAFETY**

Deputy Mayor Kate Green presented an overarching report on progress made in priority area 6 (Improving Road and Transport Safety) of the Police and Crime Plan. This priority reflected reflects the actions that the public and stakeholders felt during the Police and Crime Plan consultation were important for safer travel on public transport and roads around Greater Manchester.

### **P6 Spotlight A Report – Safer Transport Review**

ACC Colin McFarlane was invited to provide a further update on the implementation of the Safer Transport Review aimed at enhancing public safety and passenger perceptions of personal safety on the Bee Network.

Reference was made to the ambition for a strategic approach to the alignment of resources between Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and GMP for a more effective, protective and responsive capacity to address crime and anti-social behaviour on the public transport network. A working group was in place comprising representatives from all the partners to work towards the ambition of the safest travel system in the world. A lot of data analysis to look very clearly at crime and incident locations and fully understanding the key problems that needed to be addressed.

The GMCA had given its support to a three phased approach working towards the creation of an “11<sup>th</sup> district” based on the transport system. The implementation of phase one was currently underway, with a key lynchpin of this phase being the full implementation of an enhanced TravelSafe Live Chat function.

### **Comments and Questions**

- Members referenced anti-social behaviour and crime related to various types of off-road and electronic bikes – which had now sadly included recent fatalities in Salford. Could GMP commit to further work on this, particularly in areas most impacted such as Salford? The Deputy Mayor advised that this was an active ongoing concern across the region and GMP’s Op Hurricane was continuing to identify the key hotspots and confiscating offending vehicles in these areas. Members were asked to engage with their neighbourhood teams to ensure that the issues in the area were highlighted for focus with Op Hurricane. It was advised that Members would be kept informed of conversations taking place between neighbourhood police and the community about staying on the front foot in addressing these forms of anti-social behaviour.

### **P6 Spotlight B Report – GM TravelSafe Partnership Annual Report 2024-25**

Kate Green (Transport for Greater Manchester) was invited to provide insight into the GM TravelSafe Partnership Annual Report, highlighting the key trends, work and achievements of the Partnership.

It was advised that the current incident rate figures had help static over the past eight-month period, this stabilisation of the rate had been welcomed. An increase in passenger perceptions of safety had also been surveyed (73% up to 78%). The public had repeatedly

emphasised that a feeling of safety was key to them regularly making use of the transport network. A significant increase had also been seen in the number of front-line staff on the network. Overwhelmingly, members of the public who had been surveyed had stated that an increased presence of front-line staff made them feel safe on the network, so over the past 12 months there had been an uplift of circa 200 staff on buses and trams. This had resulted in an increase in crimes reported, but this was taken as a positive as it helped in building the intelligence on network hotspots.

Criminal damage to public transport (largely the throwing of projectiles at buses and trams) had continued to be an issue, with 37% of buses having been subject to this at some point. Bus and tram 'surfing' had also become an increasing area of concern, this 'surfing' included perpetrators hanging onto the back of buses or in-between the coupling on double trams. There had been 81 reports of this in the entirety of 2024, but 2025 had seen 69 reports already up to July alone. This was now a key priority area.

## **Comments and Questions**

Members agreed that the trends for public transport 'surfing' was an area of huge concern – but ironically there was a worry raised that talking about it and highlighting the issue made it more 'fashionable' to younger people. It was suggested that the Panel could consider this issue further through the Police, Fire & Crime Leads Group, as there were examples of good practice, such as work being undertaken in Salford that could be highlighted to officers.

## **P6 Spotlight C Report – Vision Zero Action Plan and Provisional Road Casualty Data for 2024**

Peter Boulton (Transport for Greater Manchester) was invited to address the Panel on the progress of the Vision Zero Action Plan and provisional road casualty data for 2024.

The latest provisional data made available by the Department for Transport had indicated a 13.3% increase in the number of fatalities in 2024 compared to 2023 (45 rising to 51), however compared to the pre-pandemic average from 2017-2019 this had still resulted in a decrease of 6.1%. KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) had seen an increase in 2024 of 26.4% compared to 2023, but again this still resulted in a decrease on pre-pandemic figures of 7.9%, so a downward trend was maintained overall. Some of these figures may have

resulted in a change to how figures were reported, and work was taking place to look at the causes and how to re-baseline targets.

Good progress continued to be made on the Vision Zero Action Plan, including a further 130km of Bee Network Active Travel routes; a Safer Roads Fatal Review Panel being put in place; the launch of a £1m innovation fund, and the continued installation of further average speed routes and speed cameras. On this subject there had also been an update to the GM safety camera criteria following an intervention by the Chief Constable who agreed to look at the development of a GM model in the absence of any updated national criteria.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Priority 6 highlight report progress update be noted.
2. That the Priority 6 Spotlight A report on the Safer Transport Review be noted.
3. That the contents of the initial review findings of the Safer Transport Review be noted.
4. That the recommended 3 phased approach to implementing an integrated 11<sup>th</sup> District to police the transport network.
5. That the programme update for phase 1 including a dedicated TravelSafe LiveChat facility, with further consideration of funding requirements to be considered as part of the programme be noted.
6. That the Priority 6 Spotlight B report on the GM TravelSafe Partnership Annual Report 2024-25 be noted.
7. That the Priority 6 Spotlight C report Vision Zero Action Plan and provisional road casualty data for 2024 be noted.
8. That the requirement to re-baseline the interim Vision Zero target be noted, subject to discussion with Department for Transport (DfT).
9. That the revised safety camera criteria be noted.
10. That an item on work being undertaken across the region to combat public transport 'surfing' issue would be taken to a meeting of the Police, Fire & Crime Leads Group.

**PFCP/44/25**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Panel would be taking place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members wished to comment on the work of the Deputy Mayor seen through the Deputy Mayor's Decision Notices that were provided to the Panel at each meeting for information. It was stated that these really emphasised the significant level of work taking place behind the scenes within the Deputy Mayor's Safer and Stronger Communities Team each month.