

COUNCIL

1 FEBRUARY 2012

JOINT AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

GMC Transport

Councillor Pickstone

Could the Council's spokesperson on Transport for Greater Manchester please give members an update on the 2012-13 T4GM budget and any implications this may have on the residents of Bury.

A

The Levy to be paid to Transport for Greater Manchester for the 2012/13 budget represents an overall increase of 0.7% on the rebased levy for 2011/12, including

- **an increase of 1.5% in relation to the financing costs for the Greater Manchester Transport Fund (GMTF) (which compares to a 3% increase included in the original budget proposals), as a result of deferring Levy contributions to the Transport Fund;**
- **a reduction of 0.5% in relation to other costs (which compares to a 1% increase included in the original budget proposals); and**
- **savings of £0.5 million (0.3%), relating to the Transport Units that were transferred into TfGM on 1 April 2011.**

For Bury, the 0.7% increase represents an increase in contributions of £145,000, which equates to 79 pence for each Bury resident.

The budget includes recurring annual efficiency savings of approximately £2.7 million, compared to the 2011/12 position. This represents cumulative annual efficiency savings of over £9 million compared to 2007/08. These are budgeted to be delivered from a combination of TfGM's own initiatives and collaboration with Greater Manchester Districts. The savings also reflect the reduction in jobs of 15% which is on course to be delivered by 31 March 2012.

Significant pressures on subsidised bus service costs have continued in the current year and contract renewal costs have averaged in excess of 5%. The budget for subsidised

bus services has allowed for these inflationary increases; and has also included an allowance for the impact on the subsidised bus service budget of the 20% reduction in the Bus Services Operators Grant (BSOG) on 1 April 2012; and an allowance to manage the risk of further commercial services being deregistered by bus operators. TfGM have managed to limit increases in this budget, and retain service levels, due to procurement savings and other cost saving measures including by grouping contracts.

General bus services which have been protected or enhanced in Bury include the extension of Bury North Local Link to cover new areas; new Green Buses being allocated from April 2012 on services 138, 154, and on the 95 service on Sundays; and the continuation of Services 479 and 486.

The budget also allows for the same level of school bus services, including Yellow School buses, as currently exists.

The budget also assumes no further changes to the local concessionary fares scheme in 2012/13.

During this year there has been investment of approximately £1.5 million on the Bury Metrolink line to improve the passenger experience and safeguard and upgrade the stops, including repairs of canopies; improved CCTV and lighting; and additional cycle facilities. A further investment of approximately £2.4 million to upgrade the power supply to the Bury line has also been completed.

The proposals to accelerate the replacement of the existing T68/T68A trams, with new M5000 trams, will bring forward reliability, operational, and passenger service benefits from a unified M5000 vehicle fleet across the existing and future Metrolink network.