

**ITEM 7 – JOINT AUTHORITY QUESTIONS**

**Police**

**Cllr D'Albert**

1. Could the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel inform members on the figures for the use of 'tasers' by Police in Greater Manchester in the current year and previous three years, including figures for multiple us of taser on the same person?

**The total aggregated figures for the last three years across Greater Manchester are as follows :**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>804</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>889</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>779</b>

**Current Year (2016) (January to June 2016)**

**521**

**Further details, including comparative data with other local authority areas are available on the Home Office website.**

**It is important to note that officers have deployed 'Taser' in many different types of incidents within the figures. These can range from violent domestic incidents, robberies, life threatening situations and incidents where an officer faced some form of weapon.**

**It is also important to note that the figures include the total number of Taser 'uses' (within multiple categories defined by the Home Office) as opposed to the actual number of Taser 'incidents' where the Taser is actually 'fired'. In the majority of cases the mere threat of its use can be enough to bring violent or potentially violent situations to a safe and peaceful resolution.**

## **Police**

2. Could the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel give a brief outline to members of the 'SHIELD' self defence training which has been given to officers? What is the cost of this programme? **Clr S Wright**

**A. GMP do not train a 'SHIELD' self defence system, nor have knowledge of it. They do use the 'SPEAR' self-defence system.**

- **Each year every operational police officer across the UK must accredit in the 'use of force' in order to be authorised to continue to use their baton, handcuffs and incapacitant spray.**
- **This course is known nationally as Personal Safety Training (PST). The content of PST is tightly governed by the College of Policing, the Home Office and the Self Defence And Restraint working group.**
- **There is a national manual with a catalogue of approved techniques; SPEAR forms part of the manual. This year, for the first time, GMP has based all PST courses around the SPEAR principles.**
- **The SPEAR system itself is very basic; it has been designed as a self-defence tool and can be used by individuals in a whole range of situations where they are attacked.**
- **For GMP it links very nicely with their 'take a step back' approach; officers are encouraged not to rush into confrontation but rather assess the situation at distance which gives them time to make good decisions.**
- **The SPEAR system provides a solution for those situations where officers were unable to 'take a step back' because they were ambushed. The system harnesses the individuals natural instinct to flinch, and turns that open handed posture into an effective defence. There are no kicks or strikes, officers are taught to use open hands and all the techniques are purely defensive. Once officers are free from the initial attack they are taught to access their batons, cuffs and/or spray.**

**Moving on to the cost of the programme.....**

**There is always a cost to delivering PST, perhaps 6,000 officers per year attend a two-day training event which involves payment of salary whilst they attend.**

**There is a full time training team consisting of a Sergeant and 10 instructors at a cost of about £385,000 (11 x £35,000). GMP also pay for the cost of venue hire for delivery of PST.**

**The SPEAR programme itself comes at a much smaller cost; GMP paid for one instructor to attend a SPEAR instructor's course and this cost £1,200. That officer then trained other instructors and the training was rolled out across GMP.**

**In forces across the UK where there has been an adoption of the SPEAR principles there has been a massive decrease in assaults to officers resulting in serious injuries, by as much as one third. Feedback for the SPEAR training is almost all positive and officers report that they feel far more confident working alone with the new skill-set.**