

Combined Authority Questions and Answers November Council

<p>1.</p>	<p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan relies heavily on significant continuing revenue funding from Government to succeed. It also needs a favourable outcome of the Judicial Review currently awaiting a decision from the Court, in respect of bus franchising. An announcement from the recent budget has allocated £1 billion for GM which is most welcome. What percentage of this money will be available for TfGM to continue with its BSIP.</p> <p>What risk management provisions are in place in the event of a shortfall or an unfavourable outcome of the Judicial Review in respect of bus franchising.Cllr. Jackie Harris</p>	<p>Cllr Peel</p>
	<p><i>The Bus Service Improvement Plan sets out an ambitious plan to improve bus travel in Greater Manchester as part of the delivery of the wider transport network – the Bee Network. Within this plan we have been very clear about the capital and revenue funding requirements in order to deliver this ambition over the short, medium and longer term. The funding requirements identified within the BSIP are proposed to facilitate improvements in services; a reduction in fares and simplified ticketing; the introduction of zero emission buses as well as enhancements to the overall customer experience, customer information and management of the highway and bus network. All of these improvements and therefore funding requirements are in addition to the recently announced £1.07 billion for Greater Manchester which is wholly associated with our bid to Central Government from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and which will help deliver many transport schemes across Greater Manchester over the next 5 years.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst some of this money will be used to support bus (£322 million) through the provision of Quality Bus Transit corridors, bus priority infrastructure, improvements to bus interchange at Bury and through wider highway and bus infrastructure improvements across the network it is not currently allocated to deliver the improvements put forward in our Bus Service Improvement Plan (outside of Infrastructure). We are currently awaiting a decision from Government about how much money will be allocated to us to deliver our Bus Service Improvement Plan.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of the risk management provisions which are in place should we get an unfavourable outcome of the Judicial Review related to bus franchising – this would not necessarily see a change to the overall ambition for bus travel in Greater Manchester, however it would require a review of how we deliver our ambition and may impact on timescales for delivery.</i></p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>The opportunity to develop a cycle network through the Haweswater tunnel is one that would benefit the safety and well-being of the people of Besses. What progress has been made to date to develop the scheme? Cllr Lucy Smith</p>	<p>Cllr Peel</p>

	<p>We assume the question relates to the subway below the M60 at Parrenthorn in Whitefield, which is used as an informal pedestrian route between Heybrook Close and Parrenthorn Road. Much of the land the route crosses is in private ownership and the Council has approached the Highways Agency, United Utilities and Onward Homes to seek agreement to improving it. We do not yet have the agreement of UU and Onward, but the Council has submitted a bid for funding to design a proposal as part of TfGM's Active Travel Fund 3 submission to the Department for Transport.</p>	
3.	<p>It was great to see Bury benefit so much from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. Can we have an update on the specifics on what this investment will mean for our borough? Cllr Butler</p>	<p>Cllr Peel</p>
	<p><i>The Autumn Budget confirmed that Greater Manchester has been allocated £1.07bn in capital funding from Government through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) process for the five years to 2026/27. GM is also currently awaiting the outcome of the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) process and the amount of funding to be provided by Government for GM to invest in its bus system over a three-year funding period. Until Government has announced the outcome of the BSIP process and has also issued guidance on its requirements for the use of CRSTS funding, GM will not be able to determine how funding secured through CRSTS will be invested, a decision that will need deliberation and determination with all 10 Local Authorities and GMCA. Currently, it is anticipated that Government guidance will be received in the early new year.</i></p>	
4.	<p>What steps are the Police and Crime Panel taking to hold the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester responsible for Greater Manchester Police yet again failing to make significant improvements as outlined recently by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Andy Cooke? Cllr. Russell Bernstein</p>	<p>Cllr Gold</p>
	<p>The HMICFRS accelerated cause of concern is very serious and highlights issues that the Chief Constable recognised and included in his improvement plan prior to the cause of concern being issued. The last police and crime panel meeting received an update on this. That improvement plan has been presented to HMICFRS and GMCA and we are already seeing improvements in performance with 999 waiting times now at 13 seconds on average down from over 2 minutes in July and the number of open crimes is reducing. Myself and other members of the panel pose questions at the Panel meetings to challenge about progress and will do so with regard to this accelerated concern.</p>	
5.	<p>With the success of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement now confirmed, what plans are in place through the Bus Service Improvement Plan to give Bury and Greater Manchester the public transport network it needs and deserves? Cllr Boles</p>	<p>Cllr Peel</p>

	<p><i>The Bus Service Improvement Plan sets out an ambitious plan to deliver improvements in bus travel for the whole of Greater Manchester, as part of the delivery of the wider transport network – the Bee Network. These improvements, subject to the receipt of funding from Central Government, include proposed additional services; a reduction in fares and a simplified ticketing system; the introduction of zero emission buses as well as enhancements to the overall customer experience when travelling by bus, customer information and management of the highway and bus network. Once the level of funding that is made available to Greater Manchester is known, further work will be done to consider each of the improvement areas in more detail.</i></p>	
6.	<p>What is TfGM doing to support the increase in cycling, particularly within BAME communities? Cllr Farooq</p>	Cllr Peel
	<p><i>The Active Travel Team are supporting Bury Council in the development of activation plans which will include a number of initiatives that will look to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by increasing the levels of cycling and walking. Activation plans are designed around new infrastructure to ensure that local residents and commuters are aware of and able to use new routes. Activities will look to educate people on the benefits of Active Travel, increase access and the opportunities to travel actively and upskill local residents. Particular target audiences for this work include young people and the BAME communities that surround the infrastructure schemes.</i></p> <p><i>Cycle and Stride for Active Lives is a Greater Manchester based project aiming to increase inclusivity for minority groups and those who experience increased barriers when accessing physical activities and is funded by the London Marathon Charitable Trust. In year one, we are supporting community groups and schools from across GM. Three of the 25 groups are operating in the Bury area and are working to reach out to people from diverse backgrounds and from areas of social deprivation to support them to become more active through cycling and walking. These groups include Barnardo's, The Booth Centre and The Sunnywood Project. TfGM are providing grants as well as providing led rides and walks and cycle training. The project lasts for three years and will take on further groups and schools up until 2024.</i></p> <p><i>We are also supporting the BAME Project in the development of a bike library in Openshaw Park, which will link with 2 other proposed libraries in Bury and Radcliffe. This will help in achieving the group's aim of integrating the diverse community of Bury, focusing on health and wellbeing, both mentally and physically. Additionally the BAME Project hope to reduce isolation, especially within the BAME community who may face challenges such as having a language barrier.</i></p>	
7.	<p>West Midlands Police has been trialling the use of Naloxone - carried in a nasal spray form by its officers since 2019. Has the Mayor of Greater Manchester considered equipping frontline responders with naloxone, a drug which can reverse opiate overdose and save lives? Cllr. Nick Jones</p>	Cllr Gold

	<p>A government consultation ran over the summer on the roll out of Naloxone to front line staff including police officers, paramedics, pharmacists, homelessness outreach workers and others.</p> <p>At that time the GM Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime wrote to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners offering support for widening access to Naloxone by expanding the list of services and individuals that can distribute it without a prescription. Legislation should enable this life saving drug to be made available as widely as possible to at-risk people inclusive of criminal justice professionals and settings. Several pilots are being undertaken in the West Midlands and elsewhere in the UK. In Greater Manchester a drug and alcohol review which led by Mike Trace who sat on Dame Carol Black's national review body was recently commissioned. The roll out of Naloxone is included in a number of options to be considered and we await the outcome of the Government consultation with interest.</p>	
8.	<p>What proportion of buses will not be compliant with the GM Clean Air Zone when it launches? What is the estimated annual charge for these non-compliant buses in Year 1 of the Zone and what impact will these charges have on ticket prices? Councillor Powell</p>	<p>Cllr Peel</p>
	<p><i>All operators have been able to benefit from funding for retrofitting where it can be fitted to specific vehicles to bring them up to Euro VI standards. Smaller operators have also been able to take advantage of a small contribution towards replacement vehicle funding. In order to understand likely compliance with the CAZ implementation, individual meetings have been held with bus operators so that their proposals can be fully understood and it appears from these discussions that – without being able to quantify it exactly at this stage – compliance is likely to be very high subject to the exemptions provided for within the policy.</i></p>	
9.	<p>It is encouraging to see the new direction of GMP under the new Chief Constable, with a clear focus on getting the basics right when it comes to policing. One of these key issues is dealing with the rise in anti-social behaviour. What is being done to tackle this in Bury and Greater Manchester? Cllr Boroda</p>	<p>Cllr Gold</p>
	<p>Operation Saturn is a high-visibility police-led initiative aimed at reducing ASB and crime across the Bury district in conjunction with partners and community stakeholders. These partners include Transport for Greater Manchester, the youth service and local authority. The operation launched at the beginning of November and sees specialist officers working closely with partners and community members to target specific ASB hotspots. To date there has been an Operation in each of the Police Neighbourhoods in Bury.</p> <p>In terms of the force response, GMP are tackling ASB by improving neighbourhood policing and the relationship with communities to ensure that neighbourhood officers have the requisite local knowledge and resources required to prevent and reduce harm and ASB. In addition, there will be a greater focus on evidence-based problem solving. All of which are central themes of the Chief Constable's 'Plan on a Page'.</p>	

	https://www.gmp.police.uk/news/greater-manchester/news/news/2021/november/crackdown-onanti-social-behaviour-across-bury-with-operation-saturn-launch	
10.	What is being done across Greater Manchester to promote the re-using of goods, rather than just recycling them? Cllr Pilkington	Cllr Quinn
	<p>The attached briefing document regarding the 3 Renew shops and the Renew Hub in Greater Manchester explains how pre-loved items are diverted from waste and sold from the shops. Every year the money raised in the 3 shops goes towards two good causes: £100,000 for the GM Mayors fund and a minimum of £220,000 for the Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) Community fund. This social value model forms part of the GMCA waste contract with SUEZ to reduce the environmental impact of residents' waste by recycling and extracting the value from it and demonstrates how goods/items are reused as well as recycled.</p> <p>We would also like to invite Councillor Pilkington to visit the Renew Hub in Trafford Park where he can see how the Hub is developing reuse and repair on an industrial scale. What this will allow us to do is create work and training opportunities to upskill local residents in repairing bikes, electricals, wood work etc. Please ask him to get in touch with me to book a convenient date to visit.</p>	
11.	When is Greater Manchester Police likely to come out of special measures? Cllr. Bob Caserta	Cllr Gold
	<p>HMICFRS Engagement process provides additional support to police forces to address causes of concern. For Greater Manchester Police concerns centred on the service being provided to victims of crime, HMICFRS determine when this engagement ends. GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, together with the Chief Constable are focussed on improving the service provided to victims and are grateful to HMICFRS and the other agencies involved in the Police Performance Oversight Group for their support.</p>	
12.	How is it intended to provide elected members in Bury an opportunity to contribute to the refresh of the Police and Crime Panel? Cllr. Jo Lancaster	Cllr Gold
	<p>Working closely with GMP, Community Safety Lead Councillors and Officers and Partnership Chairs, consultation events have been held in each of the districts between June and July 2021. The consultation events included a broad range of local organisations from the public and private sector. In addition, consultation has taken place with the GMCA Youth Combined Authority, the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Crime Steering group. Community safety partnerships have supported the continuation of the three high level priorities, and these are currently subject to a public consultation exercise, which closes on the 30th November 2021. The consultation can be accessed through the link below:</p> <p>https://www.gmconsult.org/police-and-crime-team/greater-manchester-police-and-crime-planrefresh-2/</p>	

	The GMCA has been promoting the consultation through all of its networks and have asked Heads of comms in each of the districts and Community Safety lead officers to also promote locally.	
13.	How many operational police officers are working in Backoffice roles? Cllr. Jordan Lewis	Cllr Gold
	The Chief Constable has committed to review the number of senior officers in HQ roles which could be delivered by members of police staff. This work is underway and will return senior officers to operational roles. There will always be a number of police officers working in roles which could be undertaken by members of police staff, for instance where officers are unwell or injured. The Chief Constable and his senior team are working to ensure that these officers are given the opportunity to use their skills to support members of the public by introducing desk based investigation teams and teams that support the police contact centre to ensure that we are using all our resources effectively	
14.	There has been a worrying trend emerging of 'injection spikings' in some night-time venues across the country. Have any investigations taken place by GMP to see how widespread the problem is in our boroughs, and what is being done to address it? Councillor Tegolo	Cllr Gold
	In response to increasing numbers of reported incidents of drinks and drugs spiking/suspected spiking in Greater Manchester and nationally. GMP have looked into this further and found that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in reported incidents to GMP from September 2021 with a peak in incidents over the Halloween weekend. • The majority of victims are female and aged between 18 and 25 (though we suspect that some underage victims are not reporting). GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU • Most reported cases are coming from the City of Manchester (nearly 9 in 10 cases are in Manchester). GMP have set up an Anti-Spiking Partnership to address the problem. The work of the partnership includes: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making testing kits available in premises • Making testing kits available for home testing (via the Student Union) • Ensuring usage of anti-spiking devices • Develop and agree a Night-time Information Guide/Charter with agreed protocols for licensed premises/venues on what they are required to do as well as for other key agencies (using the Save Night-Life procedures as a start) • Agreeing training/awareness raising and other key messages for staff • Developing an information guide so people know what to do if they suspect they have been spiked or who feel vulnerable when out including safe places to go and get help • Increase ways to safe report and keep people safe • Develop wider key messages on anti-spiking including deterrence for perpetrators <p>GMP have also taken a proactive approach to promoting awareness of this behaviour, recognising that everyone has a role to play in keeping each other safe.</p>	

	<p><i>If you suspect you have been spiked, seek medical advice, and report it to the police ASAP</i></p> <p><i>Any reports we have of drink spiking will be taken seriously by GMP and the more information we have about these kinds of incidents the more we can build a bigger picture and target those responsible.</i></p> <p><i>We hope everyone in Manchester enjoys their time here, and it's our job to help make sure that happens.</i></p>	
15.	<p>What is the Metrolink's average cost of staff by grade including Director level? Cllr. Luis McBriar</p>	Cllr Peel
	<p><i>Metrolink is operated by a private company under contract, Keolis Amey Metrolink or "KAM". Staff salaries are specified as "commercially sensitive information", which we are prohibited in sharing or publishing.</i></p>	
16.	<p>How will the new Artificial Intelligence guidance from the College of Policing impact its use by Greater Manchester Police? Cllr. Jack Rydeheard</p>	Cllr Gold
	<p>The College of Policing has just ended a public consultation in relation to the use of facial recognition technology with a view to developing Approved Professional Practice guidelines. As it is in the early stages we cannot say how this will impact on GMP yet as it has not been developed yet.</p>	
17.	<p>The banks recently launched a hotline to protect customers from fraud. How will Greater Manchester Police work with the banks to help customers who call this helpline? Cllr. Yvonne Wright</p>	Cllr Gold
	<p>Fraud can have a devastating impact on victims, not only any financial loss, but the feeling that they have been targeted and duped by these scams. For this reason, providing access to advice and support is a fundamental tactic in the fight against fraud.</p> <p>For a number of years, a Cyber and Economic Crime Awareness Service (CECAS) has been funded in Greater Manchester. Led by GMP, this service has provided direct support and intervention to over 8,000 vulnerable victims. As part of the CECAS approach, Scambuster volunteers provide the peer to peer support required to cope, recover and prevent them from GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU being a repeat victim. Through the service, victims can be assisted in a variety of ways, including the investigation of the crime, exploring avenues of recovery with their banks and the provision of advice regarding other agencies who may be able to provide advice. There also established links through to the main victims' services should further support be required. Further supporting activities to enhance this approach to provide a focus on education and prevention within local communities are also underway.</p> <p>The banking hotline (159) encourages customers to make contact should they become suspicious regarding any contact received requesting the transfer of funds. They will then be put in touch with their banks fraud prevention team to query this contact and take appropriate action.</p>	

	<p>Whilst GMP is aware of the launch of the banking hotline, this was done separately to policing fraud campaigns. As such, GMP has not yet received any formal advice from the City of London Police, who are the national lead for Fraud, as to how to support this initiative locally. We will continue to monitor the 159 pilot and will support GMP with any activity to promote preventative tactics such as this.</p> <p>Victims who contact GMP directly regarding an incident of fraud that is occurring at that time will continue to receive a response and support from GMP.</p>	
18.	<p>Can you provide a breakdown of how income received by the sale of Greater Manchester Police Service buildings, land and property has been spent? If so, please provide this to cover the last five years. Cllr. Roger Brown</p>	Cllr Gold
	<p>Since 2016/17 11 Police Properties have been disposed of and this raised a combined capital receipt of £3,102, 250 over this period. The receipts have been reinvested back into the delivery of local policing in the areas of technology, vehicle fleet and equipment.</p>	

POLICE PROPERTIES DISPOSED OF / CAPITAL RECEIPTS REC'D FROM PREVIOUS DISPOSALS* SINCE START 2016/17

2A DAVENFIELD GROVE DIDSBURY	12/05/16	£133,000.00	
MOSSLEY POLICE STATION 20 ARGYLE STREET MOSSLEY	12/05/16	£165,000.00	
RADCLIFFE POLICE STATION RAILWAY STREET RADCLIFFE	17/08/16	£150,000.00	
LITTLEBOROUGH POLICE STATION FEATHERSTALL ROAD LITTLEBOROUGH	15/11/16	£505,000.00	
COLLYHURST OVERAGE (FROM GMPA)*	12/01/18	£775,000.00	
330 NEWTON ROAD LOWTON WA3 1HE - POLICE HOUSE	27/04/18	£210,000.00	
PLANT HILL POLICE STATION PLANT HILL ROAD M9 8UL	11/09/19	£72,500.00	
HOUGH END LAND	12/02/20	£233,750.00	
8 HAZEL ROAD CHEADLE SK3 7BN - POLICE HOUSE	30/05/20	£220,000.00	
BREDBURY POLICE STATION GEORGE LANE BREDBURY STOCKPORT SK6 1AU	16/11/20	£367,000.00	
DROYLSDEN POLICE STATION 101 MANCHESTER ROAD DROYLSDEN M43 6EC	16/11/21	£271,000.00	
		£3,102,250.00	