

Joint Authority Questions

1. Given the pressure on the Courts system through austerity and Covid what more is being done to avoid putting unnecessary cases through Court but also ensure that criminals are being held to account for their actions. **(Cllr Hayes)**

This area of work has far-reaching impacts not only for the capacity of the criminal justice system but also for re-offending and rehabilitation rates.

One of the key levers in this area is Out of Court Disposals which are a way of dealing with a crime or offence that does not require a prosecution in court such as Cautions, penalty notices and community resolutions. For any out of court disposal to be used there must be an admission of guilt by the offender.

Following a national review of Out of Court Disposals, a new model for adults has been piloted in Salford, Greater Manchester. This model moves from six potential Disposals to just two and sees an end to those that are just warnings not to reoffend.

The 2 remaining disposals will have rehabilitative, reparative, or punitive conditions attached to them and work with Partners to develop pathways for offenders addressing reasons why they offend

Of the 82 individuals given an OOCDisposal in the pilot area, just 6 reoffended. This was measured over 6 months and re-offending rates are normally measured over 2 years but these initial findings are very promising. The new system will be rolled out across Greater Manchester from January 2022.

2. Can TFGM update Councillors on progress in finalising the CRSTS programme and Bury's allocation? **(Cllr Farooq)**

At its meeting on 10th September, GMCA approved the submission of the Prospectus based upon the upper bound guideline of £1.19bn for government consideration as part of the 2021 Spending Review process. Then, following the conclusion of the Spending Review in October, GM's CRSTS proposals received an indicative allocation with funding to 90% of the Prospectus submission (£1.07bn against the £1.19bn submission).

On 22 November 2021, the Secretary of State wrote to the GM Mayor to say that GMCA had been awarded an indicative allocation of £1.07 billion of capital funding conditional on the submission of a programme business case by the end of January 2022, noting that initially the Secretary of State letter requested submissions by 14th January. This date has now been revised to the end of January. The Secretary of State letter and other feedback from Government provided additional guidance that GM needs to

consider in developing the programme business case with regard to funding and prioritisation. TfGM and district officers are now working through a proposal for how GM should respond to this guidance and, at the end of January, GMCA will be asked to agree submission of a draft of the Programme Case, which will then be reviewed by Government before they make a final award. Once this is final award is received, the final CRSTS Programme Case will be produced and published. This is currently expected to be by the end of the March 2022. It is expected that individual authorities will receive allocations for highways maintenance and Integrated Transport Block, with the remainder of the funding allocated on a project by project, basis conditional on the submission and approval of an appropriate level of project level business case as per GM's Single Pot Assurance Framework.

3. What steps does Councillor Gold believe Greater Manchester Fire Service should be taking in response to the recent inspection report that questioned the services 'ability to keep people safe' and also identified it could 'do more to protect the public' Cllr. **(Russell Bernstein)**

It is important that the Fire Service work on the areas in the inspection report requiring improvement and that the Police, Fire and Crime Panel scrutinise the progress of this. I raised the issues at the last panel meeting and have also had a written response as follows.

The Service has recently launched a new online home fire safety check – an online tool which will enable any resident of Greater Manchester to undertake a simple and intuitive assessment of the fire risk in their own home (or for someone else). If the outcome shows low risk the resident will receive personalised online advice and guidance. Anyone recording higher levels of risk having completed the online check will be entered into the GMFRS systems to be referred for a Home Fire Safety Assessment (HFSA) where a physical visit will be undertaken by fire fighters or prevention staff.

The new intervention process will be targeted at those most at risk, be person centred and aligned to a nationally recognised standard that has been specifically designed to reduce the risk from and impact of fire in the home. It will ensure households where the risk of fire is deemed to be lower are able to access important safety advice, whereas those identified as higher risk will receive a physical visit.

The Service is partway through a review of its prevention education offer and is seeking to introduce an all-age approach, targeting resource at those most at risk while supporting general education for all communities using online resources as well as

providing physical interventions and support programmes which are better suited to challenges such as deliberate fire setters. Whilst many of the initiatives outlined above relate to the Service triggering interventions through data sharing or proactive means, we are committed to strengthening our links within localities and will be introducing a new place based working framework to improve how the Service both receives and shares information on vulnerable people with partners at a local level.

In recognition of societal changes such as a greater use of technology, the Service is reviewing and upgrading all online content to both update existing content as well as increasing accessibility for all communities. We have created a dedicated Safeguarding role to support the work of the organisation. This investment will ensure all staff are suitably trained to identify safeguarding matters and ensure that where these are identified, other agencies are alerted.

With regards to our fire safety provision, GMFRS is investing in all areas of Protection and has been focussed on increasing the number of Fire Safety Officers with two phases of recruitment over the last 18 months and since 2018/19 we have doubled the number of Fire Safety Officers. We are committed to developing Officers in line with the national Competency Framework, however as fire safety qualifications are not generally available outside of vocational training all training is undertaken in role and this limits the number of staff that can be recruited at any one time as supporting development is essential.

We have further recruitment planned over the next 12 months to further increase the number of Fire Safety Officers who can carry out inspections from our risk based inspection programme. In addition we are refining our procedures to ensure that we can target our work where it will have the most impact and free up additional time for inspections. In 2020/21 we implemented a Business Engagement Strategy increasing the number of businesses we pro-actively target with advice and utilising social media as well as targeted mailshots. Since 2020 GMFRS has provided targeted advice to all schools and care homes in Greater Manchester about managing fire safety in parallel with Covid Regulations and provided advice to over 4000 hospitality premises when lockdown restrictions were lifted. We will build on this approach to extend the advice and information available to businesses and regulated premises.

4. Does TFGM have any information about the delay to announcing BSIP allocations (**Cllr McGill**)

DfT wrote to all Local Transport Authorities on 11 January. The letter includes that '[DfT] continue to review and assess the BSIPs

covering all 79 LTAs and expect to provide details of indicative funding by February 2022.'

5. For each year Dec 17 to Nov 18, Dec 18 to Nov 19, Dec 19 to Nov 20 and Dec 20 to Nov 21, how many Catalytic Converters were stolen in Greater Manchester broken down by borough and what is the sanction detection rate for each of these years? (Cllr. Jordan Lewis)

The data reported is based on a keyword search and therefore may not be completely accurate as thefts may have occurred but the key words searched for may not have appeared in the text, or the keywords may have appeared in the text but the crime was not actually one of theft of a catalytic converter. Missing data may also occur due to spelling errors and specific words not being used. The Force has tried to reduce these instances, with that in mind, it is not possible to state how accurate these figures are.

| Borough | Dec 17 – Nov 18 | Dec 18 – Nov 19 | Dec 19 – Nov 20 | Dec 19 – Nov 20 |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bolton | 3 | 198 | 58 | 196 |
| Bury | 8 | 92 | 101 | 162 |
| City of Manchester | 8 | 184 | 360 | 804 |
| Oldham | 52 | 145 | 170 | 236 |
| Rochdale | 17 | 162 | 140 | 196 |
| Salford | 8 | 99 | 95 | 197 |
| Stockport | 10 | 81 | 183 | 240 |
| Tameside | 23 | 138 | 180 | 147 |
| Trafford | 1 | 41 | 117 | 159 |
| Wigan | 10 | 73 | 72 | 161 |
| Total catalytic convertertheft / attempts | 140 | 1213 | 1476 | 2498 |
| Number of sanction detections* (Investigative Outcome Codes 1-8) | 1 | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| % of total resulting in a sanction detection (Investigative Outcome Codes 1-8) | 0.71% | 0.08% | 0.20% | 0.60% |

*Sanction Detections¹

Investigative outcomes included in the definition of "section detection" are crimes where:

- ***A suspect was charged or summonsed to court for the offence***
- ***A suspect was cautioned for the offence***
- ***The offence was taken into consideration (also known as TIC) with other offences that the suspect is charged with committing***
- ***The suspect received a Penalty Notice for Disorder***
- ***The suspect had died before justice could be served***
- ***The suspect received a cannabis warning for the offence***
- ***The suspect received a community resolution for the offence***

Early thefts of catalytic converters used to be from 4x4 vehicles. This shifted into vans, in particular Mercedes Sprinter vans, where the converters were stolen as part of the exhaust unit (which cost £2.5k to refit). The trend now; however, has moved to smaller cars, for example; Prius and Honda Jazz. With smaller cars being targeted, there need to be more thefts to make the same amount of money. These thefts track the price of metal very closely

6. Could the Authority’s spokesperson on the Greater Manchester Transport Authority inform members on the percentage increase on the average Metrolink fare in each of the previous five years, and proposed fare increases going forwards? (Cllr Powell)

The table below shows the overall price increase of Metrolink fares in recent years. The % increases represent a ‘weighted average’, as there are many types of fares and ticketing products and limitations on cash handling vending machines that require fares to be in multiples of 10p. As a result, individual fares can be above or below that ‘weighted average’ increase.

| Year | RPI (%)* | Average Fare Change (%) | Notes |
|------|----------|-------------------------|---|
| 2015 | 2.5 | 0 | No increase during network expansion. |
| 2016 | 1.0 | 0 | No increase during network expansion. |
| 2017 | 1.9 | 0 | No increase during network expansion. |
| 2018 | 3.6 | 5.93 | Agreed 'catch-up' following 3 years of fare freezes. |
| 2019 | 3.2 | 2.1 | Originally intended to be 5.93% but “zonal” system introduced and fare harmonisation meant some reduction is and better value for passengers making multiple trips. |
| 2020 | 2.8 | 2.20 | Less than RPI increase to avoid increasing certain ticket types. |
| 2021 | 1.6 | 0 | No increase in midst of pandemic. |

*** Provided for comparison as an indication of how Metrolink’s costs change. Measured in July of each of the years listed. The most recently published RPI figure (at November 2021) was 7.1%. The December RPI figure is due to be published during January.**

TfGM is reviewing Metrolink fare levels in the context of the ongoing uncertainty in relation to ongoing government funding/ support beyond March 2022; and the aspiration for an integrated public transport network, with attractively priced, simply structured and integrated fares and ticketing.

7. Please detail the number of cameras being installed across Greater Manchester, broken down by borough, and the cost of these cameras to monitor the Clean Air Zone and when we can expect the announcement?
(Cllr. Roger Brown)

The breakdown re the number of cameras installed across GM is as follows

| Local Authority | Number of ANPR Cameras |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Bolton | 81 |
| Bury | 61 |
| Manchester | 168 |
| Oldham | 77 |
| Rochdale | 66 |
| Salford | 83 |
| Stockport | 106 |
| Tameside | 75 |
| Trafford | 68 |
| Wigan | 74 |
| Total | 859 |

The cost of the cameras including the establishment of back-office technology, contact centre and base operations costs is £48.1m

The breakdown of costs for the programme, contained within the FBC Financial Case, has yet to be released. The costs of the Egis contract (£48.1m) includes the cost of the cameras, as well as the establishment of the back office technology, contact centre and the base operational costs inclusive of business case transaction volumes

8. Could the Authority's spokesperson on the Greater Manchester Police and Fire Committee inform members on how many homes are affected by the revised Government guidance for higher rise buildings, and what work both the fire service and the local authority can do to inform residents of their increased access to funds? **(Cllr Tegolo)**

"GMFRS plays an active role in the Greater Manchester High Rise and Building Safety Task Force and also works closely with housing providers and managing agents responsible for the management of blocks of flats both inspecting buildings, holding information events and providing advice. We also work hard to support residents in individual buildings affected by fire safety issues and work closely with the Manchester Cladiators who represent affected residents.

GMFRS welcomed the recent announcement of the Secretary of State which set out the future approach of Government to tackling the building safety crisis and a further commitment to protecting leaseholders from the costs of work to make their homes safe. It is not possible to estimate how many buildings are affected by the changes as the announcement was focussed on a change in policy approach and no details of how any additional funds will be made available or administered have been announced.

Therefore, at this stage GMFRS cannot determine how many buildings will benefit from the change of direction indicated by the Government. The current Building Safety Fund only covers buildings over 18metres and will only fund work to remove and replace combustible cladding. This means that all buildings under 18m are not eligible for funding and many buildings are unable to access funding to carry out all of the necessary works as the fund will not meet the costs of fixing compartmentation breaches or works like installing missing cavity barriers. There are currently 171 blocks of flats across Greater Manchester which have identified fire safety defects which are so serious they have been necessitated a change to the evacuation strategy away from Stay Put. Of these buildings 33 are under 18m and the fire safety issues are not all related to external fire spread. GMFRS has proactively shared information and advice from Government since 2017 and will continue to do so. We will be writing to housing providers and managing agents in relation to the change in Government advice on fire safety in buildings and the introduction of a new standard for fire risk assessments. A further information event will be held when the Fire Safety Act comes into force which is anticipated to be in February. As information becomes available following the Government announcement we will proactively share this and work with the Manchester Cladiators to provide information to residents.

In addition in January 2021 GMFRS and the GMCA agreed to administer the Waking Watch Relief Fund for Greater Manchester for buildings over 18m and secured and approved £2.4m of funding for the installation of fire alarms of which £1.5m has been paid out with installation of alarms

completed in all but 3 developments with work ongoing to install the alarm in those buildings. The Secretary of State announced a further expansion of the scheme to include buildings under 18m and the GMFRS has agreed in principle to oversee the administration of this funding.”

Bury Council will be liaising with the Fire service and including advice in comms once everything is clarified.

9. Could the authority’s spokesperson on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund inform members on what investments the Authority holds in companies that have profits based on fossil fuels. Will the Pension Authority be supporting the campaign by Divest UK and others to move the fund away from Fossil Fuels entirely? **(Cllr Wright)**

Thank you for question. The Council has appointed myself (Councillor Grimshaw) as the Council’s representative on the GM Pensions Advisory Committee, I will raise this issue when we next meet.