

	<b>Party</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	If continued grant funding is not forthcoming from the Government, will Transport for Greater Manchester need to consider a reduced frequency on the Metrolink? If so, what would the proposals be on the Bury line?	<b>Cllr S Wright</b>
		The Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps recently announced a funding package of “over £150 million” for both bus and light rail operations in England. TfGM understand this is to cover a period of six months, starting from 4 April 2022, and is to be the final Covid related recovery funding package. TfGM has yet to receive detail of the precise allocation that will be awarded to Metrolink. There are currently no proposals to reduce service frequencies on the Bury Line or anywhere else on the Metrolink network	
<b>2</b>	<b>Labour</b>	With the CST report showing another increase in antisemitic hate crime, what steps are GMP taking in order to combat this?	<b>Cllr D Quinn</b>
		<p>The GMCA and GMP recently responded to the ‘15 Years On’ report following the first key Parliamentary report on Antisemitism conducted in 2007 which includes a focus on reporting, research, community reassurance and community engagement.</p> <p>Grant funding is provided by the Deputy Mayor to the CST to support a dedicated hotline and support services for hate crime. GMCA also continue to work with CST colleagues nationally to support the Security Advice For Everyone (SAFE) initiative aimed at encouraging faith and community leaders to attend online seminars to improve safety at places of worship.</p> <p>The increases in conflict in Israel and Palestine had a significant impact on Greater Manchester communities and as such GMP implemented a multi-agency gold structure, Operation Wildflower, to monitor tensions linked to the conflict and to protect the Jewish community. GMP undertakes a proactive role in the development of multi-agency understanding and alignment with the Jewish communities, with a particular focus upon Orthodox communities. The Greater Manchester Victim Service Co-ordinators, (VSC’s) have carried out several positive and productive ‘Facebook Live Sessions’ to engage with the</p>	

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		<p>public around hate crime and incidents on an up to date, accessible platform.</p> <p>CST representatives meet regularly with the GM Deputy Mayor, GMCA and district teams, to review concerns and share details of upcoming campaigns to assess how one can support the other. In addition, GMP will also meet with the CST to review every antisemitic hate crime and incident that has been recorded over the previous month. The meeting gives GMP, CST and the Jewish communities a detailed breakdown of antisemitic incidents across Greater Manchester and helps to strengthen links between policing and communities. The Deputy Mayor also regularly attends and address the Jewish Strategic Group to highlight their commitment to tackling antisemitism and support for the community.</p> <p>To improve the quality of the hate crime/incident records, governance is in place through the Hate Crime Working Group to improve the service level and support for victims of hate. Each district now has a hate crime data Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and a hate crime lead of Inspector or above. Hate incidents and crimes can be reported by members of the public via several reporting options designed to give victims a choice of how to report that is convenient and meets their needs. All antisemitic graffiti and posters are removed as a priority within 24 hours.</p> <p>In Greater Manchester, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) works in partnership with GMP to review evidence for hate crime prosecutions, which has resulted in GMP achieving an 85-90% rates of successful prosecutions, making GMP the highest force in the Northwest for positive outcomes at court.</p> <p>Within our borough GMP Bury District Neighbourhood policing team have embedded joint patrols at weekend's with the CST that focus on hate crime/incident hotspots. Shomrim Prestwich have recently been invited to work alongside officers from</p>	

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		the Bury South NPT as part of Operation Saturn which is GMP operation to tackle Anti-social behaviour. The Bury South Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector meets regularly with CST to review local hate crime data and identify and tackle any emerging themes or trends and put in place comprehensive community reassurance patrols	
3	Labour	Can TFGM update Councillors on the risk to services in Bury and across GM if additional funding is not provided by the Government in recognition of the continuing impacts of Covid?	Cllr McGill
		<p>In relation to the previous question, TfGM is yet to receive detail regarding the share of the announced “over £150m” to be allocated to GM.</p> <p>The Government’s announcement requires local authorities and bus operators to work closely together to ensure effective and financially sustainable transport networks which cater for the needs of the local public are in place once recovery funding ends later this year.</p> <p>TfGM is engaging with operators on this matter and will continue to do so. This is to ensure GM is able to sustain the network and promote patronage to pre-pandemic levels where possible. The GMTTC’s Transport Committee and Bus Services Sub Committee will continue to receive updates on this matter.</p>	
4	Conservative	Does Cllr. Gold share my concern that the latest HMIC report into GMP doesn't highlight much improvement?	Cllr McBriar
		<p>The inspection took place in August and September 2021, using data from June and July 2021. The Mayor appointed the new Chief Constable, Stephen Watson, in May 2021 and within months he published his long-term improvement plan, which identified his priorities for change. So the data used for the inspection does not reflect the subsequent improvements. Based on updates received by the Police and Crime Panel and the Bury Community Safety Partnership a number of these issues have now been addressed and there have been significant improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 999 average speed of answer 25 seconds, a reduction by half from July 2021</li> <li>• 101 now at 3 min 47 seconds down from over 8 minutes in July 2021</li> <li>• Grade 1 incident attendance times down 4 minutes to 17 minutes</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 2 incident attendance times down 11 hours to 7 hours</li> <li>• Crime recording now at just under 91% up from 77% and rape offences at 97% accuracy</li> <li>• Arrests up 24%</li> </ul> <p>In Bury since the inspection took place there have been significant changes to more proactive policing such as Operation Saturn, an increase in police activity and a major change in the command structure.</p> <p>Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Andy Cooke has stated:</p> <p>"Greater Manchester Police has faced immense challenges, but I am pleased with the progress the force has made in the short period of time since it published its new action plan, back in September last year. However, Greater Manchester Police is still falling short of the level of service both the inspectorate and the public expect. I am particularly concerned about how the force investigates crime, its insufficient understanding of demand, and how it supports its workforce. We have made several recommendations for the force to make improvements in these areas. The challenges facing Greater Manchester Police should not be underestimated, but I am optimistic that the trajectory and pace of improvement will continue this year. We will continue to closely monitor the force's progress."</p>	
5	Labour	Can TFGM provide a summary of the investment into Bury over the past two financial years in relation to walking and cycling, and road safety schemes?	Cllr Farooq
		<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Prioritised Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) budget - £13.2m, of which:</p> <p>Development (design and consultation) cost approval of £1.607m</p> <p>Full scheme approval so far: £1.155m (Fishpool). Prospective approval (at March GMCA): £2.34m</p> <p>Active Travel Fund (2) Budget – £0.74m (Fishpool – Pimhole Active Neighbourhood).</p> <p>Emergency Active Travel Fund – £295k (although this</p>	

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		<p>scheme was removed following consultation with residents)</p> <p>Safer Streets Saving Lives (Covid Emergency Response actions) – £500k</p> <p>Capability Funding - £225k to develop pipeline schemes</p> <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>Congestion Deal funding: Active Travel Grant awarded to Hazel Wood High School, BL9 7QT. £5,634.90 used on Cycle parking (2 x open covered cycle parking 6 spaces e/a) and pool bikes and associated safety equipment (10 pool bikes, 23 helmets and locks)</p> <p>ATF Complementary Measures: School Streets applications approved for following three schools: Chesham Primary School, BL9 6PH; Guardian Angels RC Primary, BL8 2RH; Hazel Wood High School, BL9 7QT 2</p> <p><b>Bike libraries</b></p> <p>Bury Library (Bury MBC), BL9 0EZ</p> <p>Radcliffe Library (Bury MBC), BL9 0EZ</p> <p>The BAME Project, BL9 0ND</p> <p><b>AT Facilities Grants: due to be awarded</b></p> <p>St Gabriel's RC High School, BL9 0TZ</p> <p>Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club, M25 0EG Chantlers Primary, BL8 2SF</p> <p>Guardian Angels' RC Primary School, BL8 2RH</p> <p><b>London Marathon Charitable Trust funded community action</b></p> <p>Sunnywood Project, BL8 3GH</p> <p>Barnardo's, M8 0NE (covers Bury, Rochdale, Tameside)</p> <p><b>Cycle training</b></p> <p>113 people attended Learn to Ride or Road Rider Ready at Clarence Park in Bury</p> <p>18 people attended Intermediate Maintenance at Nationwide</p>	

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		<p>Cycling Academy in Bury</p> <p><b>ATF “Train the Trainers”</b></p> <p>4 th September 8 people trained on Ride Leader course 18th October 6 people trained on Find and Fix course</p> <p>12th November 3 people trained on Find and Fix course</p> <p><b>Road safety schemes</b></p> <p>TfGM has supported the delivery of road speed surveys to help provide evidence to support complains managed by GMP</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	Can Cllr. Peel outline if there are any plans to introduce concessionary Easter rates on the Metrolink?	<b>Cllr Harris</b>
		There are no plans to introduce an Easter concessionary ticketing scheme on the Metrolink network.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	There have been numerous complaints regarding the frequency and reliability of the bus service throughout GM. The explanation is that there are shortages of drivers to cover all routes. With that in mind, what plans are in place to encourage recruitment and training for much needed additional staffing?	<b>Cllr Rydeheard</b>
		Currently, recruitment and training for bus staff is within the remit of the individual bus operators. The bus market is currently affected by shortages, as drivers and operational staff move to different sectors of the economy, mirroring changes seen in the wider employment market. Shortages have also been exacerbated by absences due to Covid-19. At the peak, GM operators faced staff shortages of up to 20% across the region, this resulted in the inability to cover both contracted and commercial mileage. The outcome of shortages included short notice service de-registrations to ensure reliability of the network was maintained. The industry has also faced stiff competition from other sectors such as the HGV market for labour shortfalls. The new year has seen the driver levels begin to plateau with bus companies beginning to report an increase in applications, and as problems with DVLA processes are resolved.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	Has the Pensions Authority undertaken any assessment of any investments it has in Russian companies or other investments? Will the Authority consider a withdrawal from all Russian investments, given the recent invasion of	<b>Cllr Tegolo</b>

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		Ukraine?	
		<p>On 28 February 2022, the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board issued some advice to pension funds in the light of events in Ukraine and the resultant extent and potential sanctions by the UK government. The Board advised LGPS funds to consider the implications for their investment portfolios and to discuss with their pools and asset managers what action they should prudently take.</p> <p>GMPF is already doing this. Even before Russia invaded Ukraine, the efforts involved in managing the ESG risks of companies in countries such as Russia were significant - with such markets often trailing in terms of corporate governance, human and worker rights, political stability and environmental concerns.</p> <p>We believe in activist engagement, but only if we can achieve real-world outcomes alongside meeting our fiduciary obligation to achieve good pension returns. It is often too difficult to engage well with companies in these markets and requires significant effort. This is why GMPF has no direct Russian holdings.</p> <p>It is clear that Russia has placed itself outside of all international norms. There is very little appetite for anyone to trade with Russia under these circumstances and in face of international sanctions. Therefore, in that context, it is very hard to see how Russian investments are sound financial investments, which while completely ignoring the moral case, which is utterly compelling, is not something we can usually legally take into account when considering our fiduciary duty.</p> <p>GMPF has no direct Russian holdings, although around 0.2% of GMPF's investment portfolio is connected to Russian holdings.</p> <p>GMPF's investment managers have frozen all existing indirect holdings in Russian-domiciled investments, recognising the current lack of market for selling these assets and the fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of our members and the taxpayer.</p> <p>We note that some funds are using the word divest themselves, but unless and until the current world markets and sanctions change, they will only be able to freeze them.</p> <p>GMPF will continue to comply with all economic sanctions in force and will keep the matter under active review.</p>	

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<b>9</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	How many hate crimes, as a result of sexual orientation or transgender issues, were reported to Greater Manchester police in each of the last three years. What proportion of complaints result in a prosecution being pursued?	<b>Cllr M Powell</b>
		In Greater Manchester there were around 13,100 hate crime reports made in the past 12 months of which 2,151 hate crime reports were recorded as sexual orientation and 274 transgender (so around 16% and 2% respectively). Hate crime reporting has increased in the past year compared to the previous year but this data is likely to be skewed due to the COVID-19 lockdowns. Details in relation to the previous two years and prosecution rates are being analysed by Greater Manchester Police and the information will be shared as soon as this is available. Locally hate crime, including intersectionality across protected characteristics, is a theme within the Community Cohesion priority in the refreshed Bury Community Safety Plan.	