

Combined Authority Questions

1. What steps as Shareholders in MAG are we taking to protect our investment in light of the current challenges being faced at Manchester Airport?

Councillor Dean

Treasurers from all 10 GM Councils meet with the Finance Director of MAG on a quarterly basis to review financial performance but we don't get involved in operational delivery matters in terms of the running of the airport

Manchester City Council and the 9 Districts can appoint 2 directors in total to the Board. The appointed directors are Councillor John Blundell (from Rochdale) and Councillor Bev Craig (from Manchester). They can obviously raise issues of concern at Board meetings. Manchester City Council own 35.5% of the shares and the other 9 districts own 29% of the shares between them

The Directors of Finance also meet at least 3 times a year at which time financial projections, management accounts and annual accounts are presented and discussed. We recently discussed the expected timing of when dividends would start to be paid again and the expected timing of the cash flow for the loan interest. Whilst we don't discuss operational management issues at these meetings the financial projections are obviously based upon passenger numbers and the impacts that the pandemic and various outbreaks had on those projections.

2. Please could the Police and Crime Panel provide an update on the response times from GMFRS to callouts?

Councillor Rizvi

GM Fire and Rescue have set out priority activity in their Annual Delivery Plan for 2022/23, including the introduction of a new Response Strategy 2022-2025. This provides a framework to deliver continuous improvement in respect to providing a fast, safe and effective response.

Within this framework there is a response target to life risk incidents of 7 minutes and 30 seconds.

The table below details the response times over the past four quarters, for GMFRS as a whole, and specifically for Bury.

Quarter	Average response time to Life Risk emergencies (GMFRS)	Average response time to Life Risk emergencies (Bury)
Q2 2021/22	07:26	07:20
Q3 2021/22	07:32	08:05
Q4 2021/22	07:28	08:39
Q1 2022/23	07:15	07:34

The average 1st appliance response time to life risk emergencies for the borough of Bury was 7 mins 54 seconds for the period 01.07.21-30.06.22. There is some variation each quarter, attributable to a number of protracted incidents in Q3 and Q4 of last year which impacted on overall response times where there were multiple issues locating incidents due to conflicting address details provided by those calling in a response request.

GMFRS are a key member of our local Community Safety Partnership where the GMFRS annual plan is reviewed and to determine partnership responses to support improvements to local responses, particular in light of the Safe Spaces priority within our local CSP plan.

We are not satisfied with these figures and will be taking them up in the Community Safety Partnership and challenging the fire service to improve.

3. Can the Leader council on Andy Burnham's plans to introduce electric buses in GM?

Councillor McGill

GM has an objective to electrify one-third of GM's bus fleet by 2027.

As part of the transition to a franchised bus system, the GM Mayor has set a target of 50 new electric buses being in place at the start of each franchising sub-area, with the first fleet of 50 due to be in operation from 17 September 2023 in the Bolton and Wigan council areas as well as parts of Salford and Manchester. Bury, along with Rochdale and Oldham, is in the second sub-area, with franchised services set to be running in Spring 2024 (based on current timescales).

In addition, 170 zero emission buses - equivalent to 10 per cent of GM's overall fleet - will be delivered using £38.5m of funding (topped up with

£12.5m from GMCA) secured through the DfT's Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme, in partnership with Stagecoach and Stockport Council.

Supplementary: Can the Leader tell us when the brilliant £2 maximum fare for adults £1 for kids will be introduced?

In March 2022 the GM Mayor announced new bus fares under franchising of no more than £2 for an adult single and no more than £1 for a child single. Subsequently, in June, it was confirmed that these fares would be delivered one year earlier to help with the current cost-of-living crisis. The new £2 and £1 fares, plus a new £5 daily ticket for unlimited bus travel across all operators, will be in place in September 2022 (subject to agreement with bus operators and the Government). The fares will be implemented for 12 months initially and reviewed in September 2023.

4. Can an update be provided as to the changes in scrutiny arrangements within GMCA

Councillor Vernon

Thank you for your question.

A paper produced by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny was presented at the Leader's Strategy meeting and subsequently agreed at the GMCA meeting on the 24th June.

A total of 18 recommendations were put forward with a plan to deliver them from autumn 2022.

The main change will be the establishment of one single overview and scrutiny committee with 20 members and 20 additional members reducing Scrutiny to one meeting and setting up multiple streams of sub-groups to deal with tasks that arise such as the Government's "levelling-up" agenda. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny suggests that a single-committee model holds the best opportunity for long-term success.

The report also agreed to strengthen the role of Scrutiny, additional training and support for Members and the Committee Chair and Vice Chair, will be members of an opposition party to the GM Mayor. As well as the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel to review the appropriate level of allowances.

Members also agreed that the transition should be monitored and evaluated by scrutiny members to ensure the change is effective.

5. What steps is the Council representative on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel taking to ensure the Borough of Bury is receiving its fair allocation of police officers and PSCO's.

Councillor Jones

GMP has a Plan on a Page (POaP) which determines how the force will deliver its promise to respond to incidents; prevent and reduce crime deliver an outstanding service and build trust and confidence. Delivery of the Plan is overseen by a POaP board chaired by the dep Chief Constable and includes various senior representatives from GMP including all district commanders as well as mayor's office, programme managers and leads for thematic areas. Current priorities for the Board are the:

- **Partnership policing offer which includes resources (and shift pattern) profiles and partnership problem solving HUB including contact with communities from online to face to face PACT meetings**
- **24/7 Response offer which includes number of resources on each district**
- **Fleet which includes the number of vehicles each district is allocated**

To ensure that Bury's interests are considered fully within this process the Council's Community Safety Manager meets weekly with the Bury Command Team and I meet with the Chief Superintendent bi-monthly and hold him accountable for:

- **Response times to those contacting police on 999/101**
- **Crime management – numbers being reported**
- **Domestic Incidents- incidents reported, arrests and outcomes**
- **Hate Crimes**
- **Burglary and robbery, incidents, patterns. Hotspots and responses**
- **Outcomes – i.e. how many of those arrested are charged**
- **ASB – incidents and hotspots**
- **Theft of motor vehicle**
- **Knife enabled Crime including seizures**

To inform these discussions a comprehensive performance data set is now produced by GMP. The level of data that I have secured is significantly more detailed than information available previously in Bury and gives the basis for a structured challenge about priorities and the deployment of the full use of Force resources including police officers, PCSOs and force specials. In this context, I am assured that we are now

seeing the benefits of recent recruitment campaigns with new recruits arriving every 4 weeks.

I have asked the Chief Constable to meet with all councilors to talk through local police resourcing in more detail. Unfortunately it was necessary to postpone the first date arranged but I am happy to reschedule this event

6. Recent Home Office data shows GMP recorded 1461 homophobic and biphobic hate crimes. Bearing in mind the unreliability of GMP crime recording how confident can the people of Greater Manchester be that this figure is accurate?

Councillor Harris

Over the last twelve months significant work has been taking place to drive across Greater Manchester Police following previous findings by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) which recognised activity was not satisfactory and required improvement. This has involved the introduction of new senior leadership at Force level and increased senior capacity across districts, including Bury, and recasting of priorities through a forcewide plan on a page.

As of the latest PEEL assessment, GMP has been assessed to be adequate. The report's author outlines that "I am please to find that the force has improved its crime recording. It has introduced processes to make sure that crime recording is more accurate." (page 2). There are further areas for improvement and updates will continue to be sought through Bury's Community Safety Partnership.

In relation to data on sexual orientation related hate crime reporting, the figure for 2021/22 is 2,162 for the Greater Manchester region. This relates to the period through which the above improvements in recording have taken place. For Bury specifically the figure is 109, which represents 5.0% of the regional total. This forms part of a wider focus on local data and insight, which informs activity through the Community Safety Partnership (which next meets in September 2022) and subsequent sub-groups, in this case for the Community Cohesion group.