

## Combined Authority Questions

1. The Greater Manchester pension scheme serves a plethora of employees working for different organisations. since 2010 and the growth of outsourcing, it is likely that the number of organisations who are members of the scheme, will have grown. The cost of living crisis will have put pressure on these organisations and they will be reviewing their membership of the Greater Manchester pension scheme. Defined benefit pension schemes provide the best levels of remuneration for employees that address issues of pension poverty. however, they need to be sustainable, so it is essential that active membership levels are maintained.

Please can GMPS provide figures of how many organisations are currently active members? What steps are being taken to encourage organisations to remain in the scheme? **Cllr Whitby**

**Thank you for your question, unfortunately the response received from the Greater Manchester Pension scheme did not address the points raised and a further information has been requested. Once received this will be shared with all Elected members.**

2. Following the positive news that GMP are now out of “special measures”, how does GMP plan to continue the improvement journey and embedded the changes made?

**The Chief Superintendent of GMP at Bury has set out that there will be absolutely no resting on laurels or relaxing of expectations in relation to the continued improvement journey of the Force, driven by the Chief Constable at Force level, and through District Commands and their Senior Leadership Teams in each district, including Bury.**

**The Chief Constable has reiterated GMP’s position in that, “We are well on our way, but this is just the beginning.” The foundations to the improvements, including a relentless focus on the Force Plan on a Page, have been set and now continue to be built upon in terms of practice, expectation and delivery. This Plan is a new way of working, as part of strengthened leadership, a clear renewed focus on compliance and crime recording practices and making sure the basics of policing are delivered effectively – it was never just a plan to get out of Special Measures itself, it is the ongoing plan to improve to continue to make the region a safer place to live, work and visit; indeed, the Chief Constable has set out the aspiration to be the finest Force in the Country**

**A robust process of internal quality monitoring and scrutiny through the Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel – which Bury has active involvement in – will further strengthen steps taken over the past eighteen months. Locally the Community Safety Partnership will retain a focus on this and look forward to continuing to deliver further partnership activity in delivering our LET’S Do It! strategy.**

3. Have GMP taken any action following the HMICFRS report into vetting of police officers? **Councillor Dene Vernon**

**On November 17th, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published a report in respect of police vetting nationwide.**

**The inspection has reported some concerning practice and inconsistency of approach across the police service nationally in the areas of initial recruitment and vetting and the management of complaints and misconduct matters.**

**The report makes an unusually high number of recommendations – 43 in total including on the following:-**

**updating minimum standards for pre-employment checks;**

**establishing better processes for assessing, analysing, and managing risks relating to vetting decisions, corruption investigations and information security;**

**improving the quality and consistency of vetting decision-making, and improving the recording of the rationale for some decisions;**

**extending the scope of the law relating to police complaint and misconduct procedures;**

**strengthening guidance for forces in respect of vetting processes, relationships, and behaviours in the workplace;**

**understanding and defining what constitutes misogynistic and predatory behaviour in a policing context;**

**improving the way the police collect corruption-related intelligence;**

**improving the way police assess and investigate allegations of misconduct.**

**Action is already underway. Many of the recommendations have a target date for delivery of April and October, 2023.**

**A full briefing has been requested from GMP on how they will respond. It has also been added to the workplan of the Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel. I will update you when i receive more information and it has been discussed at the Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel.**

4. With the introduction of the fare cap from mayor Andy Burnham, what impact has been seen on patronage on buses?

**As part of TfGM's work to increase patronage and respond to the cost-of-living crisis, new caps on the cost of certain fares for bus travel within the city region have been introduced one year earlier than originally planned. Single journey fares now cost no more than £2 for adults and £1 for children, and passengers may make unlimited journeys across all bus operators for no more than £5 (adult) or £2.50 (child) a day.**

**Patronage has risen since September and is now at the highest levels since the pandemic, though more data is required before we can fully evaluate the impact of the Mayor's fare cap. A report will be produced in the New Year which combines operator passenger data with passenger survey information and will present a clearer picture of overall patronage. We would be happy to share this information with Councillor Peel when it is available so he can share with Bury colleagues.**

- 5. With incidents in relation to water safety being a source of concern what can the communities of Bury expect to take place to reduce this risk? Councillor Liam Dean**

**Water Safety is recognised as an important element of the Creating and Maintaining Safe Spaces theme within Bury's Community Safety Partnership Strategy. This involves partnership activity between Council services, including Grounds and Countryside colleagues, in conjunction with Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue. In particular, action has been taking place on delivery against the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) recommendations with respect to the safety of blue spaces including improvements to railings, path surfaces and signages.**

**To build upon this a Bury Water Safety Plan is being developed which brings together the Council's approach to the management of open water sites under council control and community education activity – this includes through GMFRS, both routine and targeted water safety messages and earlier preventative work through the schools. The Bury plan is taking account of learning from local attendance at Greater Manchester's first Water Safety Summit on 30th September. An update on this was provided to the Bury Resilience Forum in November, including positive engagement in plans to convene a GM Strategic Water Safety Partnership which would be the first such regional partnership of its kind in England. The Water Safety Plan, due for completion by the end of the year, will be shared extensively through the Community Safety Partnership and community networks.**

6. Manchester airport was recently voted the worst airport in the country by the country's largest consumer body. What action is MAG taking to redress this situation? **Councillor Jackie Harris**

**The reference made is to a survey of readers of Which? magazine, who were asked about their airport experiences between July 2020 and July 2022. While the questions asked referred back to a period that ended in July 2022, the findings were only published in late October of this year.**

**While it is the case that the airport experienced customer service issues in the early part of the summer, the recruitment of 700 staff since the start of the year has seen a step change in the service the airport provides. Indeed, in October 87% of passengers queued for less than 15 minutes to get through security. In recent weeks, this has been closer to (and sometimes exceeded) the 95% target. This compared to May, when 91% of our passengers queued for longer than 30 minutes in security.**

**Passenger experience has also been on an upward trend over the summer, improving by more than 20 percentage points between April and October, with higher service levels sustained over the October half-term period. During November, nearly 99% of all passengers passed through security in under 15 minutes.**

**Airline arrivals baggage delivery had been a particular challenge throughout the summer season, with airlines handled by Menzies and Swissport seeing customer service below acceptable levels. The Airport are reviewing the resource plans for each ground handler ahead of next summer season to ensure they are sufficient to provide passenger with an acceptable level of service.**

**The Airport continue to recruit and plan to bring in more than 200 additional colleagues by April. This will mean that when the airport gets to the peak summer season, all staff will be able to carry out their role confidently and efficiently, ensuring that the passenger experience is one that the region can be proud of."**