

## GMCA QUESTIONS

- 1) With the recent announcement that bus franchising will start in Greater Manchester from September this year, including some parts of the borough of Bury, what changes will residents begin to see from that start date? **Clr McGill**

In the short term we are expecting the network to roughly remain as it is, we will seek to address any changes to the network once we have access to performance and patronage data and had time to analyse this.

- 2) Under bus franchising, what plans are in place to improve the quality of the bus fleet, including the need for electric and other low carbon alternatives? **Clr Farooq**

All vehicle specifications are Euro VI low carbon emissions, with 50 Electric Vehicles being allocated in tranche 1. For tranche 2 (Bury), 50 EV's have been allocated to this franchise.

- 3) How regularly is car park capacity in Metrolink station car parks in the Borough assessed? **COUNCILLOR JACKIE HARRIS**

Usage of the car parks is measured monthly, with staff attending daily.

- 4) Following the work of Operation Avro over the festive season around Bury Interchange, what impact did this operation have and what plans are in place to ensure continued focus on public safety in the town centre? **Clr McGill**

**Bury Community Safety partners are committed to ensure that Bury town centre our transport network and indeed the Borough as a whole is a safe place for all.**

**Multiple planned Operations took place over late December in Bury Town Centre, including**

**Operation Avro action led by Travel Safe with the GMP Transport Unit across Bury, Manchester and Bolton on 13th-16th December, which included 1 high risk missing located, 18 stop-searches and 7 arrests.**

**Operation Heartbeat which involved a concentrated, high visibility patrol plan of the town centre with GMP, Council ASB Officers and College staff working and patrolling together to address town centre ASB and criminality**

**Operation Dasher with additional patrols in high footfall shopping areas including The Rock and surrounds, through to Kay Gardens.**

**Operation Saturn , working in partnership with TravelSafe who were conducting an Avro day of activity on the tram network including the Bury line.**

**The Operations collectively saw an increase in partnership patrols within the town centre, across peak time periods including high footfall shopping and across the evening and night time-economy as people celebrated Christmas. These patrols increase resident**

reassurance within the town centre at a busy period for those working, shopping and socialising; deterred crime and anti social behaviour and allowed for robust partnership activity. There were low levels of thefts from the person in the town centre over December at a time there would be an expected seasonal increase.

Tackling crime and ASB, alongside creating and maintaining Safe Spaces are two of the priorities of Bury's Community Safety Partnership. Public safety in the town centre will continue to be a focus, including through regular days of action; pulsing in Specialist Operations resources; targeted patrol plans informed through acquisitive crime data at a beat level; engagement activity as part of the town centre regeneration – such as the current engagement on the Market and Flexihall site – and in developing a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment.

- 5) It was reported at a recent police, fire and crime panel that Bury Council received £18000 from GMCA to deliver on 2021/22 requirements for the home office funded western Balkans serious and organised crime community coordinator programme. The purpose of this initiative is it research and undertake a community research project to map western Balkan and Albanian communities across bury. How has this funding been utilised and why was Bury chosen for the project? **COUNCILLOR DENE VERNON**

This activity is part of the Western Balkans Serious and Organised Crime programme led by the Home Office to reduce the impact of Western Balkan driven serious and organised criminality on communities and protect the most vulnerable members of society from criminal exploitation. The project works to deliver a whole system approach to tackling SOC through coordinated activities that involve targeted Prevent interventions, resilience - building and strategic communications that develop capability on the ground.

Regions across the UK have been selected by the Home Office, to improve the understanding of illicit financial flows going through and coming out of different localities and regions and to develop deterrence tools. This is in keeping with the national 4P approach to *Pursue* individuals engaged in serious organised crime by disrupting and prosecuting offenders; *protect* individuals and systems by reducing the vulnerabilities exploited by serious organised crime; *prevent* people from engaging in such groups; and *prepare* by ensuring a comprehensive response to threats.

The funding was allocated to support the prevent element of this approach. A partnership Steering Group has overseen the commissioning of research which has involved stakeholder engagement and analysis within local communities to inform initial insight work, to better understand Western Balkan community demographics, access to services and connectivity.

- 6) What criteria will be used to determine the effectiveness of operation Falcon which recently resulted in arrests from the Bury area? **COUNCILLOR LIAM DEAN**

Operation Falcon aims to identify people involved in money laundering and organised crime, as part of partnership work across the north-west to disrupt such criminal activity. This involves teams involving Challenger (who focus on Serious Organised Crime), the economic

and cyber crime functions with GMP and local neighbourhood policing teams, working in conjunction with Council revenue teams to identify and combat cash-based money laundering.

The arrests at the start of this year came through the execution of 4 search warrants of 2 vehicles and 5 properties in the Borough, with three arrests of individuals in connection to money laundering offences and possession with intent to supply controlled substances.

Whilst there isn't a single metric to determine effectiveness of the Operation, important measures tracked include the value of illicit financial resources removed from our streets (£15,000 in the most recent warrants bringing the total value of seizures across the region to over £930 in the past nine months); the number of arrests (and consequential convictions) to disrupt organised crime groups (there have been 17 money laundering arrests across the region since May 2022), reduction in threat risk and harm profiling of known organised groups.

Longer term success will be measured by the conversion of these seizures to positive forfeitures at court following civil investigations. Almost 50% of this forfeited amount will be returned to GMP and can be spent on community initiatives.

The key is the collective impact on disrupting organised criminality and in turn reduced impact across a number of crime measures caused by such groups.