

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Labour	<p>What level of resource did GMP have to use to adequately police the large events in Heaton Park over the summer?</p> <p>Supplementary: Will the Cabinet Member thank our GM Mayor and especially thank his deputy, Kate Green, for ensuring that extra police were available for the 5 Oasis concerts?</p>	Cllr Ryder
	Councillor Sandra Walmsley	<p>GMP has dedicated a significant level of resources for the large events taking place this summer in Heaton Park, particularly Oasis concerts and the Parklife music festival. Those numbers are not shared publicly for operational reasons, but for instance for Parklife several hundred GMP staff were deployed each day, in more than 50 distinct policing roles.</p> <p>GMP's response in terms of resourcing, and command and control, is very much shaped by the National Police Chiefs' Council events guidance, and also College of Policing approved professional practice; the latter clearly sets out the role for the police in discharging its core responsibilities at events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing and detecting crime • Preventing or stopping a Breach of the Peace • Traffic regulation (only under statutory powers relating to events) • Activating contingency plans where there is an immediate threat to life • Coordinating emergency responses in the event of a major incident. <p>GMP resourcing including specialist deployments are also partly shaped by the Counter Terrorism Security Coordinator recommendations which are made to the Gold Commander, e.g. Taser and armed response contingencies, high visibility patrols in high footfall areas, drone and search response capability.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken with event organisers under Special Police Services to ensure that wherever appropriate, services provided by GMP are not subsidised from the public purse. For Parklife for example, SPS was requested and agreed for a significant number of policing</p>	

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		<p>resources dedicated to the event site, surrounding streets and key transport hubs (including nearby Metrolink stations and the Pick Up Drop Off Point at Sainsburys, Middleton Road.) SPS was also requested by Manchester City Council for additional roads policing support, given the criticality of the wider transport and highways network. Similar arrangements are in place for the Oasis concerts.</p> <p>Supplementary: Thanks go to Andy Burnham as Greater Manchester Mayor, and Kate Green, Deputy Mayor of the region and lead for Safer and Stronger Communities, for their support and input in assuring appropriate policing attention and resourcing to events, especially given this requires force, ie regional, co-ordination.</p>	
2	Labour	Can TfGM outline the timeline for when bus services in Bury will be subject to our first Network Review since being franchised?	Cllr Haroon
	Cllr Alan Quinn	<p>Network reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the completion of franchising, Greater Manchester is undertaking a rolling programme of Network Reviews to ensure that local bus services meet the needs of communities, support local priorities, and align with Bee Network ambitions. Reviews are being completed in consultation with local stakeholders and informed by passenger feedback and data. Every review will be evidence-based, using all the information available to us, including community feedback. By speaking to local communities, we can learn where the network can be improved, gaps can be filled and opportunities developed. The Bury Network Review is part of the second wave of reviews, along with the wider Central Growth Cluster and North-East Growth corridor. Early engagement and evidence gathering will continue later in the year, including with Bury Council officers, elected members and community forums. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to feedback on the review through online surveys, in-person meetings or via direct communication, with formal 	

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		<p>consultation planned for summer next year – with any proposed changes implemented in 2027.</p> <p>Connectivity Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TfGM has undertaken a GM-wide 'Connectivity Assessment' to assess what proportion of the network is currently within the Greater Manchester Bus Strategy's (July 2023) target of 90% of the GM population to be within 400m (c. 5 mins walk) of a daytime, weekday bus or tram service that comes at least every 30 minutes. This analysis has found that the current network sees 83.9% of the GM population meeting the Bus Strategy target, up from 78% overall in November 2022. For most of these areas, the assessment found that immediate changes to the network are not required, primarily due to the small number of people living in the areas or the relative lack of socio-economic need. To help identify the areas which do need the most immediate attention, TfGM applied a prioritization weighting based on population density and demographic data. At the Bee Network Committee in June, members endorsed this approach and the proposed next steps for work to continue on plans to implement connectivity improvements during 2025 and 2026 in areas where earlier intervention has been prioritized. This may not always be a bus solution: additional infrastructure and active travel is also being considered. At the same Committee, TfGM also committed to continue to engage with members and officers to understand districts' perspectives on their priorities for bus connectivity. 	
3	Conservative	<p>The Renaker group has been awarded more than £400 million in finance from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), which is controlled by the Labour mayor, since 2016 to fund a series of high-end developments around the city centre. However, the Times recently reported that two of the awards are now facing a challenge in the courts over claims that the loans were concluded on "non-market terms" and "distorted" competition among developers in the city centre. The GMCA is defending the case and said it rejects "any suggestion that the loans have been given at less than market rate or on preferential terms." It is worth noting that there is no suggestion of improper behaviour by Renaker.</p>	<p>Cllr Rydeheard</p>

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		<p>I understand that no comment is able to be given on an ongoing legal case, however the loans were approved even though the developments failed to contain any affordable housing. More than 60 per cent of the total funding allocated under the scheme was given to Renaker to build luxury flats in Manchester city centre. These included The Blade, a 51-storey residential tower, which boasts a yoga studio, infra-red sauna and 24-hour concierge service. A penthouse flat in the block was recently, and may still be, on sale for £1.7 million.</p> <p>Please may the relevant Cabinet Member confirm why taxpayer backed loans are being used to build luxury apartments for multimillionaires, rather than affordable housing which our residents so desperately need?</p>	
	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	<p>The Greater Manchester's Housing Investment Loan Fund was set up in 2015 with £300m of Government funding to encourage, accelerate, and unlock the building of new homes and the lending criteria for the Fund were based on parameters set by central Government and were developed with external financial experts to reflect due diligence standards in the private sector.</p> <p>Over the past nine years the GMCA has not turned down a single viable scheme which met the established criteria. To date the Fund has helped unlock around 11,000 new homes across the city-region, supported a wide variety of developers and projects – including through 38 small loans offered to SME developers – and has enabled the regeneration of brownfield sites at no cost to the taxpayer.</p> <p>Since 2015, the £300m funding pot has been loaned and repaid twice over. The interest earned is shared between Greater Manchester and central Government. The GMCA has reinvested its share of the interest in supporting GM's housing priorities – including work to bring forward the country's first Good Landlord Charter to boost standards in the rental sector, and training new housing enforcement officers across the city-region.</p> <p>Alongside this, with the £175m Brownfield Housing Fund GMCA has allocated funding for more than 12,000 new homes across Greater Manchester, including 4,000 affordable homes.</p> <p>In 2023 2,243 affordable homes were completed in Greater Manchester – the most in a single year since 1998.</p> <p>The GMCA refutes any suggestion that the loans from the Housing Investment Loans Fund have been given at less than</p>	

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		<p>market rate or on preferential terms, and was confident in the case presented to the Competition Appeal Tribunal at the end of May.</p> <p>Background guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any suggestion that the GMCA is giving subsidies or loans at less than market rate from the Housing Investment Loans Fund, distorting the property market, giving Renaker preferential treatment etc. were allegations made by Mr Weis in his claim and should in no way be stated as being fact. The GMCA is refuting these claims through the proper legal processes. Decisions taken on the granting of loans from the Housing Investment Loans Fund were taken by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and are not reserved to the Mayor. The Mayor chairs the GMCA but decisions of the GMCA are taken by all 11 members, each of whom has an equal vote. The GMCA has taken the same approach in relation to any and all loans made from the Housing Investment Loans Fund, regardless of the developer concerned. The GMCA is open about the loans it proposes to make. It does not publish the specific details of any of its commercial loan arrangements due to commercial sensitivity, as is normal practice. The Housing Investment Loans Fund was open to all developers. All viable schemes are considered for funding through the Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund, including any proposals from affordable housing providers. Of the 103 loans given from the Housing Investment Loans Fund, only 29 were based just in the city centre. 	
4	Conservative	Can an update please be provided as to the usage of the Bee Network, across buses and trams?	Cllr Roger Brown
	Councillor Alan Quinn	<p>Bus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 17 million more bus journeys in 2024 compared to 2023 and we now carry over 170m passenger a year. The number of Bee Network bus journeys has increased by 14% year on year in the first two 	

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		<p>franchising areas, with strong signs of growth in the final tranche (launched in Jan 2025).</p> <p>Metrolink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrolink journeys are up 7% year on year. • There has been a steady return of patronage following the pandemic and passenger numbers are now around pre-pandemic levels (in some locations and times of the day, the network is busier than before the pandemic). 2024 included the busiest month in the history of Metrolink. • Patronage during May 2025 was marginally down (-0.3%) on May 2024 but was 4.6% up on May 2019. • Between January and April 2025, journeys on the Bury Line were up by 5% compared to the same period in 2024. 	
5	Conservative	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) reviewed Greater Manchester Police's (GMP) current and ongoing approach to investigating child sexual and criminal exploitation. The report found that the force have live investigations into "multi-victim, multi-offender" child sexual exploitation inquiries, involving 714 victims and survivors, and 1,099 suspects. Can an update be provided as to how the GMCA and the Council are supporting this investigation, with a view to how we can achieve the justice which survivors of these horrific crimes deserve?	Cllr Jackie Harris
	Councillor Sandra Walmsley	<p>Tackling CSE offending and supporting victims affected by these crimes is a priority for GMP and is one of the stated priorities within the Bury Community Safety Partnership Plan.</p> <p>The Greater Manchester Police force Child Sexual Exploitation Major Investigation Team (CSE MIT) and locally based Complex Safeguarding Teams (CST) work closely with partners across Greater Manchester to ensure victims of these appalling crimes are provided with the best possible service. The investigative work of these teams is strengthened further by the work of the GMCA Complex Safeguarding Executive who provide a peer review process, highlighted as innovative practice within the recent HMICFRS report.</p>	

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		<p>At any given time there are a significant number of CSE investigations ongoing across the force. These investigations include multi-victim, multi-offender cases and both recent and non-recent reports. The total number of victims and offenders involved in these cases fluctuates as investigations develop over time. CSE investigations often involve the consideration of significant volumes of material resulting in individuals being identified whose status in an investigation remains unclear pending further assessment. It is important to note that these people are distinct from those who have been categorised as known offenders where evidence of criminality exists and is being investigated. The figure for suspects contained in the HMICFRS report includes both known suspects and those whose status remains unclear.</p> <p>The Casey Review, published in June 2025, provides a clearer picture of the number of known suspects under investigation. The report confirmed that there were 269 known and confirmed recent and non-recent CSE suspects actively under investigation across GMP.</p> <p>GMP and its multi-agency partners are committed to delivering a victim centric approach across all of these investigations. CSE MIT and CSTs work together with Local Authorities through established partnership structures to assess and manage the risk posed by offenders and to enable victims to access the support services they may need. The focus of this multi-agency working is to improve enforcement action to tackle exploitation that is happening now but also to build on lessons learned from the past and increase the work in the areas of prevention and education.</p>	
6	Ind Group	In light of the recent GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report on the safety of women and girls on public transport, which highlights concerns such	Councillor Vernon

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		as poor lighting, lack of staff presence, and the need for enhanced safety measures at transport interchanges, what steps are being taken to ensure that the redesign of Bury Town Centre's Transport interchange incorporates these findings?	
	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	<p>As part of the redesign of Bury Interchange, the design team are seeking to address concerns related to the safety of women and girls on public transport. TfGM are incorporating best practice and learning from other TfGM interchanges in the design process, and this will continue through further planning and detailed design stages.</p> <p>The ongoing design development process, which includes consultation with Greater Manchester Police, ensures as far as practicable that the new interchange is designed to be safe and secure for everyone, and engagement with local user groups will help TfGM to ensure it complies with best practice accessibility standards and guidance.</p> <p>The design for the scheme addresses issues with the current interchange and incorporates a variety of features including those listed below.</p> <p>Interchange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed single concourse design providing open sight lines and views across the interchange • Full concourse-wide CCTV coverage – live monitored from TfGM's Control Centre which is staffed 24 hours a day. Real time passenger information will be provided at each bus stand indicating to passengers when the next service is due to depart • Opportunities for a retail convenience store and coffee shop within the interchange building bringing regular foot traffic to the site and additional natural surveillance • Modern LED lighting kept on during un-staffed hours • Concourse's west façade includes glazing (bus boarding side), creating an open feel to the concourse and allowing natural light to enter • Multiple points of entry/exit to the concourse • Central station manager's office with windows open to the concourse providing a degree of natural surveillance • Bus station manager's office with windows overlooking the concourse providing a secondary element of passive surveillance • Emergency Call Help Points on the concourse. Once called, these direct CCTV cameras to view the call point and callers go through to the 24/7 TfGM Control Centre . 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Travel Hub integrated into the interchange building with a glazed internal wall so activity at ground level of the Hub is visible from the interchange concourse <p>Metrolink platforms and new Southern Access/Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full CCTV coverage on the Metrolink platform and across the bridge/public realm areas – live monitored from the Metrolink operator's control room and shared with TfGM's Control Centre Real-time passenger information on the Metrolink platform Modern LED lighting kept on during un-staffed hours Emergency call points across the platform. Once called these direct CCTV cameras to view the call point and callers go through to the Network Management Centre which is operational 24/7. Passenger lifts also have three call points (1 on each landing and 1 within the lift car). Canopies on Metrolink platforms to be partially glazed to allow natural light to reach the platforms Perforated panels on the pedestrian footbridge to allow an element of permeability through the structure and visibility around corners Glazed areas to enable passive surveillance of the platforms from the interchange concourse Glazed doors to external lift for inter-visibility. 	
7	Ind Group	Has policing recent high profile events at Heaton Park had any impact on neighbourhood policing in Bury?	Councillor Lancaster
	Councillor Sandra Walmsley	<p>Given the impact of large events on those that live and work in the vicinity of Heaton Park and surrounding communities it is right that GMP's Neighbourhood Policing Teams are actively involved in the planning and operational phases of those large events. To simply parachute in GMP Public Order Public Safety officers and commanders from other Districts for these events, with an inward looking and short-term focus, would be foolish in terms of understanding and mitigating the obvious impacts on those surrounding communities.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the City of Manchester (North and City Centre), Bury, Rochdale and Salford (Broughton) are all actively involved in the pre-event</p>	

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		<p>engagement and wider community patrols for both Parklife and Oasis. Those teams are also closely working with the event organisers Community Impact Team, who deploy resources into the community and staff a hotline and 'hub' in the Maccabi Centre.</p> <p>GMP Bury's Neighborhood Inspector continues to play a key role in the planning and delivery of neighbourhood policing support for Heaton Park large events. The reality is that most of the Districts Neighbourhood Policing Team staff will be involved in some way over those busy weekends, but a number of staff volunteer to work on their weekends off for time back elsewhere, so this allows neighbourhood policing resilience to continue in other parts of Bury.</p> <p>The events are subject to crime, arrest and anti-social behaviour analysis work, undertaken by District Intelligence Units and GMP's Force Intelligence Branch. Those comprehensive documents very much inform our work going forward (and lessons learnt from the recent Parklife event have already been incorporated in Oasis planning.) Events are also subject to 'hot' debrief (during the weekend) and structured debriefing several weeks later. These feed into a partnership debrief and Safety Advisory Group session at the end of the summer. The feedback from involvement of GMP neighbourhood policing teams form a s key part of those processes, giving a voice to any concerns raised by local communities, and also the GMP staff supporting those events.</p>	