

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Together for Bury	How many people in Bury were arrested during the Christmas/New Year period for drink and driving?	Councillor L McBriar
	S Walmsley	Information on this topic will be available from GMP next week, and the information will be shared with Councillor McBriar	
2	Radcliffe First	<p>With regards to concessionary bus passes Andy Burnham has been quoted by the Bolton Evening News as saying,</p> <p>“the rule – introduced years ago over fears of overcrowding during peak hours – was “discriminatory” and no longer fit for a modern city region”.</p> <p>Since there appears to be a general consensus that this is true, please can you explain why the changes (i.e. holders being allowed to use them before 9.30am) are not going to be introduced until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 rather than immediately?</p>	Councillor C Birchmore
	A Quinn	<p>During the pilot phase, Transport for Greater Manchester sought operator co-operation to trial the proposal, however, making the changes permanent requires an amendment to the local concessionary scheme, changes to ticketing systems, and negotiation with non-franchised service-permit operators (i.e. those running cross-boundary services but allowing ENCTS use within Greater Manchester’s boundary).</p> <p>The Travel Concession Scheme Regulations 1986 set out the publication requirements for local concessionary scheme variations and requires publication and notification of the scheme variation at least 28 days in advance with a 28 day response period which cannot run concurrently, resulting in a 56 day period in total.</p> <p>This process is underway. Final budget approval will also be sought at the GMCA meeting in mid-February.</p>	
3	Labour	<p>The removal of the time limit for the concessionary bus pass for older and disabled people is a great success, and one that speaks to the responsiveness of a publicly owned and run transport system</p> <p>What else is TFGM doing to support groups such as young people, veterans and care leavers with the cost of travel around greater Manchester</p>	Councillor Joan Grimshaw

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	<b>A Quinn</b>	<p>TfGM and GMCA are committed to ensuring travelling on the Bee Network is as accessible and affordable as possible. As well as maintaining the £2 adult single bus fare (£1 for children) and a freeze on Metrolink fares, discounts and concessions are available for a range of specific groups, including as follows.</p> <p><b>Young People:</b> Young people living in GM aged 16-18, who are eligible for Our Pass, can apply to receive free local bus travel and purchase half price off-peak 1-day and weekend Metrolink travelcards.</p> <p><b>Those aged 18-21,</b> who are eligible, can apply for an 18-21 pass that allows the purchase of a half-priced adult 28-day bus product – costing just £40.</p> <p><b>Care Leavers:</b> Care leavers aged 18-25 who live in GM can travel for free on buses in Greater Manchester. Care leavers can also access half priced off-peak day tram tickets, for purchase via travel shops.</p> <p><b>Veterans:</b> Veterans can travel for free on tram and Bee Network buses on Armed Forces Day, Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p><b>Other support:</b> ·</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child ticketing (5-16) across the network is half the price of an adult ticket; those ages 11 -16 will need a valid IGO pass</li> <li>- Free School Passes issued via local councils for eligible primary students provide free term time travel via bus, tram or train between home and school</li> <li>- The scholars permit which allows those eligible ages 16-19 to pay child fares on buses, trams and trains in GM when travelling to school or college.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Progress on Whitefield fire station – what progress has been made on the Whitefield Fire station?	Councillor Maria Rahimov
	<b>Leader</b>	<p>The construction of a new, state of the art, Fire Station is still underway in Whitefield, with the programme on week 44 of a 72 week construction.</p> <p>The practical completion date for the full site that</p>	

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		<p>includes the removal of the temporary station, all supporting infrastructure and to make good the site boundary is the 9<sup>th</sup> of September later this year.</p> <p>However, residents of Whitefield will be able to say hello to their new fire station ahead of this date, as the appliance bay and response operations centre will commence operation from July/August - with operational services commencing alongside this.</p> <p>The above dates are in line with the original programme timeline, and our construction partners are making good time on the project</p>	
5	Conservative	How will the Greater Manchester Rail Vision to 2050 specifically benefit Bury residents, particularly in terms of connectivity to Atom Valley and Manchester city centre?	Councillor I Gartside
	A Quinn	<p>The Greater Manchester Rail Vision sets out some key targets that would specifically benefit Bury residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· In the period from now to 2030, these include a proposed new Metrolink stop, travel hub and park &amp; ride at Elton Reservoir, and beginning construction on the Bury-Heywood-Rochdale-Oldham Tram-Train Pathfinder. The Pathfinder could slash journey times between homes and jobs – both existing and newly created – across Atom Valley.</li> <li>· In the period from 2030 to 2040, these include opening of the Pathfinder service plus delivering a next-generation Metrolink fleet (that would provide the right capacity on the existing Metrolink Bury line to Manchester city centre).</li> <li>· In the period from 2040 to 2050, these include going underground in the city centre to create significant new capacity and connectivity across the city-region. Our Draft Rapid Transit Strategy (July 2024) clearly identified the Metrolink Bury line as a key candidate to become part of a future underground system.</li> </ul>	

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		<p>More generally, as Rail is integrated into the Bee Network by 2030, this will improve multi-modal opportunities and help Bury residents to access rail services in a seamless and integrated way. Through ticketing via Bus and Tram will facilitate improved access to stations for onward travel to a wide range of destinations.</p> <p>The GM Rail Vision also sets out our aspirations to improve rail connectivity across the GM Rail Network and beyond to neighbouring regions. As we work with the industry to improve these services, it will open up more opportunities for onward rail travel for a wide range of purposes.</p>	
6	Labour	With the clean air zone forced upon the city by the Conservative government now gone, can the GMCA update us on the progress of the consultation and what the future of the cameras installed as part of this programme is?	Councillor Gavin McGill
	A Quinn	<p>A full public consultation took place from 23 September to 6 November 2025, gathering 4,830 responses.</p> <p>89.7% of respondents agreed—65.3% strongly—with the proposal to change the primary use of the Clean Air Zone. A report seeking formal approval to progress with the change of use will be submitted to the GM Air Quality Administration Committee (AQAC) on 29 January 2026.</p> <p>The cameras will continue supporting the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan until the city region meets legal NO<sub>2</sub> limits and fully exits the national air quality programme.</p>	
7	Conservative	What steps are being taken to address service reliability issues in outer boroughs, including Bury, highlighted in the Bee Network performance update?	Councillor J Harris
	A Quinn	TfGM have taken a number of steps to improve performance since the launch and full roll-out of the Bee Network in Bury. We've added significant additional resource into key routes in the district, such as the 135, 471 and 472/474, which has delivered an improvement in the performance of these services, and we will	

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		<p>continue to monitor them closely. TFGM also recently made timetable changes to improve on-time performance of a number of previously subsidised services to the north of the borough</p> <p>On-going roadworks across the district continue to create challenges for service reliability, for example the 524 in Radcliffe during the latter part of 2025. TFGM are continuously working to minimise the impact on service reliability, and exploring ways to improve operational resilience, through monthly joint meetings with operators and local authority colleagues, while there are a number of bus pinch point schemes that are also being progressed in the district.</p> <p>As the report set out, TFGM continue to publish weekly performance reports on social media and the TfGM website so that customers can track progress and any specific concerns can be flagged through the Rate My Journey tool.</p>	
8	Conservative	What funding is being allocated to implement integrated CCTV systems and increased staff presence at Bury Interchange and other local transport hubs?	Councillor R Brown
	A Quinn	<p>Metrolink staff are deployed to the Bury line every day. However, staff cover the whole Bury line and they are not only at Bury Interchange. TfGM also have at least 2 visits by TravelSafe Officers to Bury station per day.</p> <p>TfGM have introduced 116 TravelSafe Support and Enforcement Officers to the Bee Network as part of Bus Franchising (plus a dedicated team to support night bus services) their deployments are prioritised based on risk, harm and threat</p> <p>The current Interchange is being redeveloped, with work on Phase 1 (Metrolink) due to start on site late 2026. It is being designed with public safety in mind and, as part of the redevelopment, CCTV across the Metrolink and bus elements of the facility (linked to TfGM's 24/7 control room) will be renewed</p>	
9	Together for Bury	Is the Whitefield Community Fire Station rebuild on target to be completed as planned?	Councillor Bernstein

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	<b>S Walmsley</b>	Yes – the information was detailed in Question 4	
<b>10</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	How will the £1bn Good Growth Fund ensure equitable investment in Bury, given concerns raised about the concentration of funding in Manchester city centre?	Councillor S Arif
	<b>Leader</b>	<p>The Good Growth Fund is an innovative new fund to drive growth across the whole of the city region - in November projects were announced in all of the 10 GM boroughs, providing growth opportunities in every borough</p> <p>The announced projects included £6.8m to revitalise the centre of Prestwich, transforming the Longfield Centre site into a new Market Hall and retail space, building off the current work on the new Prestwich Travel hub'.</p> <p>Across the city region the fund will deliver nearly 3,000 new homes, 22,000 new jobs and 2 million sq ft of employment space</p> <p>However, the Good Growth fund is not the only investment coming to Bury from the GMCA, which also includes the £84m development of the Bury interchange and the unlocking of the Northern Gateway site, creating thousands of new jobs, opportunities and homes here in Bury.</p> <p>In addition to delivery of active projects, the Council continues to develop a plethora enterprising project proposals to access future funding opportunities of the fund and other grant opportunities to the benefit of the wider borough</p>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	How will the Housing First initiatives, including the Property Check Programme and Empty Homes Programme, be implemented in Bury, and what targets have been set for improving housing standards locally?	Councillor K Hussain
	<b>C Cummins</b>	Bury is fully involved in the Housing First initiatives through the Property Check and Empty Homes Programmes, including contributing to programme design. In 2025/26, the Property Check Programme	

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		<p>funding is focused on increasing local enforcement capacity, and Bury is recruiting two new trainees through the GM Housing Enforcement Trainee Programme, building on a previous successful trainee. Training and employment costs are shared with GMCA, and existing officers have also taken part in programme training.</p> <p>Under the GM Empty Homes Temporary Accommodation Programme, Bury will receive £414,545 in 2026/27 to fund two Empty Homes Officers and an incentive pot of £300,644 to lease and repair properties for families who would otherwise be placed in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>GMCA has set a target of bringing at least 16 empty homes back into use, though the total is expected to be higher. A range of incentive and enforcement tools is available to support this work, from council tax premiums to compulsory purchase orders. Following GMCA approval in November 2025, GMCA and Bury officers will meet monthly from January 2026 to support programme mobilisation, with a flexible delivery model that can adapt to local needs.</p> <p>GM's wider ambition is that everyone has a healthy home with good standards, although no GM level housing standards targets have been set specifically for Bury. National reforms will also shape this area: the Renters' Rights Act 2024 will require councils to report housing enforcement activity from 2026 and will extend a strengthened Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector, with government consulting on compliance by 2035 or 2037.</p>	
12	Conservative	The "Get Greater Manchester Working Plan" aims to raise employment across the region to 80%. What specific programmes or interventions under this plan are being prioritised in Bury to support residents who are economically inactive due to long-term health conditions or skills shortages?	Councillor I Gartside

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	<b>C Morris</b>	<p>Bury is prioritising programmes under the Get Greater Manchester Working Plan to support residents who are economically inactive due to longterm health issues, low skills or complex barriers. For 2026/27, the focus is on strengthening integrated healthandemployment support, expanding intensive help for those furthest from work, and improving access to locally relevant skills pathways. A core element is the continuation of WorkWell, delivered with the NHS, Primary Care and the voluntary sector; 375 residents have already been supported this year, and almost £284,000 has been secured to continue the service next year. The IPS in Primary Care programme will also continue, offering specialist onetoone support for around 70 residents with more complex needs.</p> <p>Support for those furthest from the labour market is being expanded through the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer, which will offer intensive wraparound help to about 140 residents facing multiple challenges. Improved datasharing with DWP will enable more proactive outreach. Alongside this, Bury is continuing to invest in skills provision: over 2,000 residents have taken more than 3,400 courses this academic year, supported by £1.3 million in adult skills funding, with flexibility to target Level 3 provision where it best meets local economic needs.</p> <p>Targeted support is also being directed to young people not in education, employment or training. Bury has received £160,000 to work with 66 young people aged 15–18, with extended eligibility for those with SEND or care experience, focused on reengagement and progression. Together, these programmes form a more coherent, integrated support system that reduces duplication, improves access to help, and strengthens partnerships across health, employment, skills and the voluntary sector. Bury will also help shape future support under the Integrated Settlement, with new activity expected from autumn 2026.</p>	