

Council Meeting – 10 December 2014

Joint Authority Questions:-

1. Councillor Pickstone

The Authority's representative to the **Police and Crime Panel** will be aware of the homophobic and violent attack on two young Bury male residents on the Bury-Manchester Metrolink line at the start of November. Given that GMPs own statistics report an increase in 2014 on reported homophobic violent crimes, what actions are the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Greater Manchester Police, taking to tackle this, on public transport and elsewhere?

(To be answered by Councillor Connolly – Police and Crime Panel representative)

A. Hate crime, in whatever guise, cannot be tolerated in a civilised society and I deplore all incidents such as these, and the debilitating effect they have on the victims.

For Members information, the 12 months to October 2014 saw 30 reported incidents relating to LGTB individuals of which 25 were classed as hate crime. This is an increase of 93% compared to October 2013.

The key phrase in the question is that it's a rise in reported incidents. Whilst no occurrence can ever be considered to be acceptable, we see more people reporting hate crimes because they are more confident that action will be taken by the Police. For example in the case quoted, GMP has been able to make a number of arrests as a result of support from the public following an appeal for information.

Building confidence can take time and I am pleased that we are doing our bit in Bury. Over the past year, we have worked with the Police and our partners to promote a number of initiatives to raise awareness of all strands of hate crime. This includes refreshed training for Bury's hate crime reporting centres and conducting workshops for over two thousand young people within each of our local authority's secondary schools through the Be Safe Be Cool project. We have also conducted Diversity Days in three high schools which deal solely with hate crime and, in addition, we will once again be part of Greater Manchester's Hate Crime Awareness Week in January 2015. Eliminating hate crime is not just a Police issue; it is up to all right minded people to promote tolerance and work towards community cohesion.

The starting point however has to be raising public awareness. Despite what may seem to be a dramatic rise in numbers, I still believe this is only the tip of the iceberg and would encourage anyone who has been a victim to come forward, either to the Police, a third party reporting centre, www.report-it.org.uk or the LGF easy reporting web app on www.lgf.org.uk/report

2. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Authority's representative on **Transport for Greater Manchester** inform members on how Bury residents will benefit from the additional £114 million of funding for 'cycling ambition cities' announced by the Deputy Prime Minister on 27 November 2014?

(To be answered by Councillor Noel Bayley –Committee for Transport for Greater Manchester Transport representative)

A. Further to the announcement mentioned on 27 November 2014, no further details have yet been released about which cities will benefit from the funding, and at what scale. Therefore it is currently unknown how much of the additional funding Greater Manchester will receive, and consequently how this will be best used in Greater Manchester.

3. Councillor Heneghan

Could the Council's representative to the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee pass on the thanks of the residents of Simister Village for the decision to provide a later service on the 96 route with effect from April 2015. All concerned are grateful to officers who have listened to the representations made by Holyrood Ward Councillor Campbell and myself on behalf of Simister residents at a time when TfGM themselves face significant budget challenges.

(To be answered by Councillor Noel Bayley –Committee for Transport for Greater Manchester Transport representative)