	Party	Question	Questioner
1	**Labour**	Can the GMCA update us on the progress being made on the interchange at Bury, and how disruption will be mitigated through the process	Councillor Julie Southworth
	Leader	Thank you for your question, the regeneration of Bury is moving forward at pace and this is an exciting new chapter for our town. Phase 1 works which will deliver the Metrolink access and platform improvements, including the new bridge, are due to start next week on 16 November and progress for approximately the next 12 months. Initial works will be site set up, including compounds on Pyramid Park, Union Square and a section of the existing Metrolink car park. There will be no disruption to tram services which will run as normal over Christmas and the New Year. However, due to the nature, setting and intended scale of the proposed works there will inevitably need to be some intermittent disruption to ongoing tram services commencing in late January to protect not only the travelling public but also the construction workforce. Members will be briefed before full details are provided to the public in advance of the disruption, and there will be replacement buses in operation during this time and we are in discussion with bus operators to enhance the 135 bus service provision. Proposals for Phase 2 of the project, comprising the redevelopment of the Interchange and the potential inclusion of Residential development, are being progressed in parallel. Such proposals are currently subject to a process of Pre-Application engagement with Bury Council prior to a formal public consultation in January and ahead of targeted Planning Application mid 2027.	

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2	**Labour**	Given the large disruption to travel across the Halloween period to tram, bus and road traffic - what steps is TFGM taking to mitigate any further disruption to travel, and to ensure that this level of disruption does not reoccur?	Councillor Imran Rizvi
	Councillor Lucy Smith	TfGM recognise that there was significant disruption across Greater Manchester during the Halloween and half-term period and have apologised for the impact on passengers and road users. The disruption resulted from several major events occurring at the same time, including essential Metrolink engineering works on the Altrincham, Eccles and Trafford Park lines, alongside an unexpected burst water main in Manchester city centre which affected traffic and bus services. TfGM works closely with local authorities, transport operators and other partners to coordinate works, manage disruption and keep people moving. The Metrolink works were deliberately scheduled during half term to reduce the impact on passengers and form part of a £150 million investment programme that will improve the reliability and performance of the tram network. TfGM has advised that it will review the lessons learned from this period, particularly where planned works and unplanned incidents coincide, and will continue to strengthen coordination, earlier intervention and passenger communications to minimise future disruption.	
3	**Radcliffe First**	Please can you explain how the Greater Manchester Waste Levy annual charge issued by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is calculated for each local authority and how any revenue outturns are determined and refunds allocated to individual authorities. Is it likely that local authorities will receive any refunds this financial year?	Councillor Birchmore

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	Councillor Lucy Smith	The Greater Manchester Waste Levy funds GMCA's statutory responsibility for the treatment and disposal of municipal waste across the nine participating Greater Manchester authorities. The overall levy is calculated each year based on the forecast cost of waste treatment and disposal services, including operational contracts, financing costs and GMCA overheads, less forecast income and any agreed use of reserves. The total levy is then apportioned between authorities using an agreed Levy Allocation Methodology. This takes account of factors such as waste tonnages, the balance between fixed and variable treatment costs, and household waste recycling centre usage, rather than simply population size. Performance is monitored throughout the year and, where actual costs, income or waste volumes differ from assumptions, year-end levy adjustments can result in either additional charges or funding being returned to individual authorities. For 2026/27, the total levy is £186.5 million. In addition, GMCA approved the return of £10 million of reserves to councils during the year, which authorities have already received. In addition the Council has received notification that the 2026/27 rebate for Bury is forecast at £1.935m. Discussions are continuing regarding the possibility of a further payment to districts, although no final decision has yet been made. Any further return would be separate from the normal year-end levy adjustment process.	
4	**Reform**	Recently and despite heavy pressure from Reform UK Councillors, it has taken the police and council months to remove three caravans from Bury West, of which we know were active in the distribution of Class C drugs and associated drug paraphernalia. After my intervention and months of pressure on the	Councillor Hill

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		Council and the Police, the caravans are now thankfully gone, though one vehicle remains abandoned at the rear of Belbeck Street. We still await comprehensive answers to a number of pieces of correspondence which we have left with the police. Please can the Cabinet Member clarify what can be done to increase contact and cooperation between ward Councillors and the Police, so that we can deal with serious issues like this more efficiently and effectively?	
	Councillor Gold	The Police and council already work closely together, as outlined at recent session for elected members on community safety – colleagues work across community safety partnership work as part of everyday businesses. The council and police will prioritise and use the tools that they have at their disposal and the evidence, in order to decide what action they are able to take from a legal point of view. Sometimes in order to reach the threshold for action they have to gather and have the correct evidence which can take time. Work is taking place with GMP Bury to provide a list of PACT meetings for each neighbourhood for a year ahead, with information shared on core committee dates and group meetings to seek to avoid clashes, to maximise opportunities for Councillors to be able to attend such sessions with neighbourhood policing colleagues. In the first instance cases should be reported through to GMP and this will provide a crime reference number; if there is persistent concerns and the cases have been reported there are then opportunities to pick up with neighbourhood policing team colleagues, the details of which have been re-shared with all Councillors recently.	
5	**Reform**	Have any of Bury's police officers attended training provided by Project Unity, which has	Councillor Zaman

	Party	Question	Questioner
		been recently exposed as vilifying Reform UK politicians as part of its sessions?	
	Councillor Gold	No GMP Bury officers have attended any training through Project Unity in any form of professional capacity, and we're not aware that any have attended any sessions in a personal capacity.	
6	**Reform**	The GM Deposit Return Scheme is set to commence in 2027, at a cost of £1m to £1.5m in 2027/28 and £4m annually after that. How will this be funded, which fund will fund it and who will be required to contribute?	Councillor Davies
	Councillor Lucy Smith	There is presently no proposal to establish a separate Deposit Return Scheme fund and no additional contribution is being sought from individual Greater Manchester authorities. The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is a national initiative to increase recycling rates across the country, it is not being introduced by GM. The financial impact is £1 million to £1.5 million in 2027/28, rising to around £4 million per year thereafter, does not represent a new direct cost to GMCA. Rather, it reflects a forecast reduction in income, as materials that would usually be collected through kerbside recycling are instead captured by the DRS. These are projections based on Defra modelling, which assumes 70% of eligible containers will be collected in 27/28 rising to 90% after 3 years. This reduction will be managed within existing waste disposal budgets and offset by the sale of electricity and steam through the GMCA's existing waste treatment arrangements. However, these are forecasts, and the long-term position depends on the actual performance of the scheme and future waste volumes GMCA will therefore continue to monitor the impact closely and review the position through its annual budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan process.	

GMCA Questions - November 2026