

Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE
Chief Executive, Oldham Council

Our Ref 1150712/DB
29th October 2020

Dear Carolyn,

I write further to your recent letters to the Secretary of States for the Home Office and Department for Transport regarding the HMICFRS Roads Policing 'Not Optional' inspection report. My office was copied into the letter.

I understand that at the full council meeting held on 9th September, a motion was passed to seek a future item at the Police and Crime Panel regarding this work in respect of the Standing Together Plan. I am informed that this is on the agenda for the next panel meeting on 16th November. In the meantime I would like to take the opportunity to outline some of the work being undertaken in Greater Manchester.

Since the lockdown was introduced earlier this year we have seen a significant increase in speeding across Greater Manchester. The Greater Manchester Covid-19 Emergency committee chaired by the Mayor and which I attend, identified this issue and found that with much fewer cars on the road, some drivers were travelling at very high speeds through urban areas. As a result, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) has made it a priority to focus on such irresponsible and unsafe driving behaviours and will continue to do so as we move forward.

I thought it would be of benefit to share a copy of my response to the Home Office in respect of the recommendations to policing within the HMICFRS inspection report. This can be found attached for your information. Whilst my response primarily addresses the actions to policing, to improve effectiveness and consistency, I have also supported a joint response from the Safer Roads Greater Manchester partnership to the Department for Transport's recent public consultation where we advocate the development of a national strategy for roads policing and outline the need for additional local investment.

Whilst I continue to support GMP activity with the resources available, I maintain regular contact with Assistant Chief Constable Nick Bailey to consider what else can be done. Nick is in the process of developing a new strategy for GMP, aimed at providing an effective response to road risk and police enforcement. This new plan will look to encompass the priorities and capabilities of other partners within the local road safety arena and will read across and support a number of existing plans and platforms including my 'Standing Together' Police and Crime Plan and the Greater Manchester Cycling and Walking Commissioner's 'Made to Move plan'. At present the strategy is being drafted in consultation with relevant partners and over the coming months I expect to receive a clear vision for how policing activity can deliver safer travel on our roads. This will include consideration of coordinated local volunteering schemes such as community speed watch.

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

Whilst this work progresses, the Safer Roads Greater Manchester partnership continues to meet regularly to review statistics and support engagement and awareness raising activity across the conurbation. This includes the delivery of the Safe Drive Stay Alive scheme, which is an emotionally engaging performance provided to over 9,000 young people annually who are approaching driving age. In addition, the partnership has commissioned a piece of research to review road fatalities in on Greater Manchester's roads to understand better the causes and further impacts of these incidents.

Should a member of your team wish to attend and contribute to the Safer Roads Greater Manchester partnership meeting to represent Oldham in these regards please let me know and I can make such arrangements on your behalf.

In addition to working with our local partnerships, my office continues to support Alison Hernandez (PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly), in her role as Road Safety Lead at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) to ensure a consistent read across of key challenges and opportunities. This included the promotion of a national survey to gauge opinion on driving offences and whether some of the income received by central government for speeding fines, should be returned locally for targeted investment. As you would expect the results to this proposition were well supported by the public and this is something that Alison will develop further on behalf of PCCs.

Discussions also continue nationally in respect of ensuring adequate levels of support following a road traffic incident, for those having to cope with life changing injuries and bereavement. Whilst I currently provide funding in support of the National Road Victims Service, provided by the road safety charity Brake, I am currently looking to align this work with my own commissioned Victims Services and the newly formed Greater Manchester Bereavement Service within the Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure people can access the right support at the right time.

I hope this response has been useful. Should you require any further information at this time please do contact me again.

Yours sincerely



Rt. Hon Baroness Beverley Hughes
Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>