



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town Hall, Stockport, SK1 3XE
Switchboard: 0161 - 480 4949

Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department,
Hous of Commons,
London
SW1A 0AA

3rd December 2018

Dear Sajid,

**RE: Greater Manchester Police resourcing and the Pensions Valuation
Directions**

We write to make you aware of my increasing concerns over the future of funding arrangements for Greater Manchester Police, with particular reference to the recent Police Pensions Valuations and Directions. As representatives of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council which sit upon the Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Crime Panel, we are aware of repeated calls made to national Government for adequate resources to be made available to meet policing needs in Greater Manchester. GMP and GMCA colleagues have made these calls through the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and Nutritional Police Chief's Council (NPCC).

However, despite these, we have seen little by way of positive response from Government, leading to increasing concern over regarding the future funding situation in relation to GMP. The Government's Budget Statement in October this year gave no clear commitment to the form or level of financial support for Policing going forward.

Actuarial assessment of the Police pension commitment suggests that an extra £470m is needed annually, £165m of which would be need to be found by the employers, which for Greater Manchester would be £8m in 2019/20 and £20m annually beyond that. Nationally, this represents an increase in the employers' contribution rate to 31.8%, an additional 9.7% on the salary budget which accounts for almost 80% of the total police budget. These resources are zero-sum in relation to the funding available for policing activities and in the words of a joint letter signed by Police and Crime Commissioner representatives of the APCC, this will therefore 'create a major risk to Police funding'.

We therefore write to urge the Government to ensure the Police Grant Settlement, to be announced this week, be adjusted to adequately cover the Police Pension commitment, to avoid these resources having to be taken directly from policing budgets or the people of Greater Manchester via precept rises. Furthermore, we urge you to provide a firm commitment to the establishment of ongoing and sustainable funding arrangements, which can allow all concerned to make informed and secure medium and long-term planning in relation to future Police budgeting.

The people of Greater Manchester should not be expected to pay an additional precept to cover the funding of unmet pension schemes. To expect the people of Greater Manchester to pay this price in additional taxation, or worse, through curtailment of their policing services undermines the spirit and concept of the devolved arrangements in this city region.

We look forward to your future correspondence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Sheila Bailey
Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Stockport MBC



Cllr Elise Wilson,
Cabinet Member for Reform and Governance, Stockport MBC