

## **UNION ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - 6PM – 8PM**

**THE THEATRE LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR, MANCHESTER STUDENTS' UNION**

### **AGENDA**

Introduction from Chair Emily Turvey

Shape Your MCR

What should the Union's stance be on whether the police should be on campus? (45 minutes)

- Introduction from proposer Sydney King
- Summary provided by SU
- Additional information from expert
- Group deliberation
- Feedback

SUGGESTIONS

Manchester students deserve special consideration regarding access to public transport (45 minutes)

- Introduction from proposer Robbie Beale
- Summary provided by SU
- Additional information from expert
- Group deliberation
- Feedback

Vote on agenda items

Close

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS**

#### **What should the Union's stance be on whether the police should be on campus?**

The armed forces & police have renowned for bigotry & discrimination. The Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have a history of racism, sexism, transphobia and ableist behaviour. At the SU 2022 Refreshers Fair the Students' Union gave platforms to both the armed forces and police which contradicted current SU Stances & Policies:

- "there should be more support for Black students affected by racism at the University of Manchester, and the University should acknowledge the trauma that racism causes"
- "We stand against misogyny... and believe in misogyny as a hate crime"

- “More work needs to be done to foster a safe environment for...QTIPOC in LGBT+ & BME space, and on campus as a whole”

Students' Union believes that there should be an All Student Vote on the creation of a policy to not allow police or armed forces onto SU property unless it is a required of them doing their job, the SU should not invite any police or armed forces organisation into SU properties, the SU should actively be anti-police and armed-forces bigotry & actively show support and solidarity for minorities affected by police violence, armed forces oppression and campaign for the University to take a similar stance of no police & armed forces on campus, and the SU and SU staff should not call the police/armed forces on protesters/strikers etc unless there is a meaningful, direct threat to a person(s).

## FURTHER READING

Optional – these links have been provided by the proposer on the item.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-57982273>

<https://iaingould.co.uk/2021/08/06/greater-manchester-police-brought-to-account-at-trial/>

<https://medium.com/@erin.dawson272/the-power-of-being-nice-a5e9ae320c1d>

<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/kicked-punched-knocked-unconscious-tipped-out-of-wheelchairs-campaigners-describe-repeated-police-targeting-of-disabled-anti-fracking-protesters/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9069561/The-real-Life-Mars-squad-Six-police-officers-guilty-gross-misconduct.html>

## STATEMENT FROM THE TRUSTEE BOARD

As per our democratic procedures, this policy was referred to the Students' Union Trustee Board (through its Commercial Committee) to consider the financial and reputational risks of the policy before it has been brought to Senate.

Feedback from the Commercial Committee of the Trustee Board to the Senate Steering Committee is that although the Policy allows for the police to come into the SU building in the event of an arrest or a warrant, there are other times where it is useful and necessary for the Union to communicate with the police, outside of them running promotional activity, especially given that we are a substantial licensed premises. This could include for example through local and regional meetings that both organisations sit on, or when particular issues arise that mean it is necessary for the police to come into our building, for example to discuss or investigate particular incidents.

The Trustee Board will respect the outcome of the policy vote, however they wish to ensure that no matter what the outcome, these additional lines of communication with the police remain open, both remotely and within the building where necessary.

## **Manchester students deserve special consideration regarding access to public transport.**

Students are in a unique position compared to other members of the public, so they deserve special consideration for things such as bus ticket prices, Bee Bike cost and access to key routes.

We believe this warrants the introduction of student-targeted concessions in the city's future transport network.

Introducing cheaper 'student fares' would help integrate students into the Greater Manchester community and allow them to explore new areas. Currently, transport might be a barrier to this – whether due to cost or routes – so helping students expand their footprint in the city could help with tackling isolation. It may also reap economic benefits, by increasing traffic to businesses in neighbourhoods that usually see very few students.

Cheaper transport could also make the difference between students continuing their studies or not, as a bus ticket is an immediate barrier to accessing education on campus.

This may also encourage more students to live further out of the city, which could help with combatting the current housing saturation issue.

Additionally, Bee Bike stations have yet to be installed in regions further South than the Fallowfield Campus on Wilmslow Road such as Withington and Didsbury, meaning students have no alternative transport option to travel to campus.

- Half of UK students currently attribute Cost-of-Living as the main reason for experiencing loneliness at university ([FutureLearn](#)), and 92% reveal that the crisis is affecting their mental health ([National Union of Students in June 2022](#))
- – cheaper travel would go some way to remedying this.
- A survey of 3,500 students and apprentices, conducted by the [National Union of Students in June 2022](#), has found that 96% of students are cutting back on spending and **42% of are cutting back on transport**. Almost a third are left with just £50 a month after paying rent and bills, which shows that many students will be struggling to afford transportation this year - a student fare could help tackle this financial pressure.

## FURTHER READING

Optional – these links have been provided by the proposer on the item.

<https://www.nus.org.uk/resources/cost-of-living-research-june-2022-students-and-apprentices>