

**Minutes of:** THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY

**Date of Meeting:** 10 September 2008

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor P Ashworth) in the Chair;  
Councillors I Ahmed, D M Ashworth, K Audin, R L Baum, C A Berry, R A Bibby, D B Bigg, D Boden, K S Briggs, R C A Brown, J Byrne, W A Campbell, D M Cassidy, F A Chaudhry, S Cohen, M Connolly, S Costello, Y Creswell, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, V D D'Albert, W J Davison, A J Garner, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, D M Higgin, T Holt, S Hurst, A Isherwood, D O'Hanlon, S P Penketh, K Rothwell, J Smith, B J Sullivan, J W H Taylor, B Theckston, B Vincent, R E Walker, J F Walton, M J Wiseman, S D Wright and Y S Wright

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors A S Garner, S P Magnall, A K Matthews, T D Pickstone and P H Redstone

**Public attendance:** 90 members of the public attended the meeting

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## **C.298 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- (a) Councillor Baum declared a personal interest in Minute C.304 below in respect of the decision taken in circumstances of Special Urgency to acquire the long leasehold of Humphrey House, Angouleme Way, Bury, by virtue of his employment by Pennine Care NHS Trust.
- (b) Councillors Audin, Bigg, Connolly, Cummings, M D'Albert, Harris, Magnall, O'Hanlon, Taylor, Vincent and Y Wright all declared interests in the question raised in Public Question Time (Minute C.301 below) relating to the possible future development of Goshen Playing Fields, as Members of the Planning Control Committee. Those declaring interests, with the exception of Councillor Vincent who answered the question, left the Chamber whilst the question was answered.
- (c) Councillor Penketh declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute C.306 below in respect of the matters raised in Councillor Y Wright's report on the work of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, as an employee of Consultants involved in a bid for a contract offered by that Authority. Immediately the matter was raised at the meeting, Councillor Penketh left the Chamber for the duration of the report.

**C.299 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**C.300 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Worshipful the Mayor offered the Council's good wishes to the Jewish and Muslim communities for the forthcoming festivals of the Jewish New Year and celebration of the end of Ramadan.

**C.301 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Written Notice of two questions from Mr M Harling had been received:-

- i) Planning application 50176 – Possible future development of the leisure facilities at Goshen Playing Fields, Bury.

The question was answered by Councillor Vincent, Chair of the Planning Control Committee.

- ii) Response to a separate question from Mr Harlings sent recently to all Councillors by email.

The question was answered by Councillor Creswell.

**C.302 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

- (a) Minute EX.259 of the meeting of the Executive held on 3 September 2008 – Treasury Management Annual Report 2007/2008**

It was moved by Councillor Bibby and seconded by Councillor Creswell that the recommendations be approved.

On being put, with no Member voting against it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

- (b) Minute EX.260 of the meeting of the Executive held on 3 September 2008 – Revision of the Financial Regulations**

It was moved by Councillor Bibby and seconded by Councillor Creswell that the recommendations be approved.

On being put, with no Member voting against, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

**C.303 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND EXECUTIVE QUESTION TIME**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R A Bibby, made a statement on the work of the Executive since the date of the last Council meeting. The Leader and the relevant Executive Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:-

**(a) Written Questions (four clear working days' notice given)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by (and action)</b>
1.	1. Pay and Grading Review 2. Staff morale as a result of the Review	Councillor Holt	Councillor Walton
2.	1. Pay and Grading Review 2. Appeals process within the Review	Councillor Davison	Councillor Walton
3.	Provision of public toilets in partnership with the local business sector	Councillor Holt	Councillor Gunther
4.	The number and cost of agency staff engaged by the Council	Councillor Campbell	Councillor Walton
5.	Quality of recent repairs to the road junction of Bury Old Road/Scholes Lane/ Sheepfoot Lane, Prestwich	Councillor A J Garner	Councillor Gunther
6.	Introduction of free car parking for the first 15 minutes	Councillor Audin	Councillor Gunther
7.	Replacement of a missing road sign	Councillor Baum	Councillor Gunther
8.	Consultations on the future of Prestwich Town Centre	Councillor Pickstone (Question withdrawn)	-
9.	1. Council strategy of alley-gating 2. Identification partners for the Strategy	Councillor V D'Albert	Councillor Cohen

<b>No</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by (and action)</b>
10.	Council policy on Community Mobile Wardens	Councillor A S Garner	Councillor Sullivan
11.	Wording of circular letters sent out by the Council	Councillor S J Wright	Councillor Creswell
12.	1. Funding outstanding to the Council under Section 106 Agreements 2. Process of determining schemes in consultation with local Councillors	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor Gunther
13.	Strategic priority of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Initiative	Councillor Cummings	Councillor Gunther
14.	Engagement of consultants by the Council	Councillor Boden	Councillor Bibby
15.	Radcliffe Riverside School Building	Councillor Campbell	Councillor D M Ashworth

**(b) Oral Questions on the work of the Executive since the last Council meeting (Without Notice)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by (and action)</b>
16.	Pay and Grading Review – possibility of personal appeals from employees	Councillor Baum	Councillor Bibby
17.	Pay and Grading Review – moderation process	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor Bibby
18.	Pay and Grading Review – Councillors' need for more information on the process	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Bibby (Briefing for Members to be offered)
19.	Absence of Labour Group Members at the remainder of this meeting	Councillor Brown	Councillor Bibby
20.	Land assembly for Radcliffe Riverside School	Councillor S D Wright	Councillor Bibby

At the conclusion of the answer to question 2 above, the Mayor at 7.53 pm called for a short adjournment for the Public present at the meeting to leave the Chamber. The Council reconvened at 8.09 pm. Councillors Audin, Boden, Briggs,

Byrne, Campbell, Cassidy, Chaudhry, Connolly, Cummings, Grimshaw, Holt, Isherwood, Rothwell and Smith did not return to the Chamber after the adjournment.

The answers to the written questions would be circulated to all Councillors.

**C.304 DECISION TAKEN BY VIRTUE OF SPECIAL URGENCY**

In accordance with paragraph 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council Constitution, the Chief Executive reported the details of the following Executive decision taken in circumstances of special urgency:-

**Decision:**

To acquire by auction the long leasehold in Humphrey House, Angouleme Way, Bury for the purpose of consolidating the Mental Health Teams operating currently from a number of dispersed sites across the Borough.

**Decision-maker:**

The Chief Executive after consultation with the Director of Finance and E-Government and the Leader of the Council.

The background papers for this decision were not within the public domain.

**C.305 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS ‘CALLED IN’ BY SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS**

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items ‘called in’ by Scrutiny Commissions to be considered at this Council meeting.

**C.306 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVES AND QUESTIONS**

- (a) Councillor Y S Wright, the Council’s representative on the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, gave a verbal report on the work of that Joint Authority to Members of the Council present at the meeting.
- (b) The nominated Spokespersons, as indicated below, answered the following written questions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2:-

No	Joint Authority and Questioner	Issue	Answered by (and action)
1.	Greater Manchester Police Authority Councillor Baum	1. The time taken to respond to telephone calls received through the non-emergency Police switchboard.	Councillor Walker

No	Joint Authority and Questioner	Issue	Answered by (and action)
		2. Possibility of GMPA providing a second non-emergency telephone number for use by the public.	
2.	Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority Councillor Baum	1. Improvement of the local transport system without the application of a Congestion Charge  2. Lobbying by local MPs for the objective in (1) above.	Councillor Creswell

**C.307 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS**

There were no written questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

**C.308 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

There were no questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Executive, Committees or Scrutiny Commissions contained in the Digests of Decision 3 and 4 (2008/2009).

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR**

**(NOTES:** The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.06 pm)