

**Council Meeting**  
**4 July 2012**  
**Leader's Statement**  
**Cllr Mike Connolly**

Madam Mayor

I would like to report on the work of the Cabinet. Since the last meeting of the Council the Cabinet has met on one occasion.

But first I wanted to reflect on the very best of Bury during the fabulous month of June.

Unless you were on planet Zog, the experience of the Torch; International Youth Festival; Stone Roses Concerts and Employee Achievement Awards provided a real and lasting showcase for all that is good about our Borough.

Thousands of people came out to welcome the Olympic Torch and were strung along the 8 mile route from Bury to Prestwich.

The event offered more than just a glimpse of the Torch [and that's all it was] there were a great many fringe events for families which in turn with decent weather created a real party atmosphere along the route.

I was at the Town Hall where they were standing 6-10 deep in places as Rick, one of our employees came through with the Torch.

It was also great to see the young people who took part in the International Youth Festival to be there in Union Square to enjoy and share this historic experience with us.

The International Youth Festival was hosted by Bury and I went to see some of the events at Castle Leisure and the new Gymnastics Centre. It was great to see the excitement and enthusiasm for this hugely successful event and no doubt a great many friendships were formed over the 3 days of competition. Many of the visitors I spoke to were very impressed with the programme of events and overall organisation.

Earlier in the month I attended the annual Employee Achievement awards which showcased once again the value of our employees to the Council and also gave us a chance to acknowledge the work they do on behalf of the Council.

When the Stone Roses concert closed on Sunday over 240,000 people attended at Heaton Park.

Whilst I'm sure everyone who attended the concerts enjoyed themselves that wasn't the experience of many residences in Prestwich.

We owe to the residents to see what lessons can be learned from this experience and I will be seeking a meeting with senior politicians in Manchester to discuss these concerns.

In all four events a tremendous amount of planning goes into making these events run like clockwork and I would like to place on record my thanks to everyone who helped make these events such an outstanding success.

Not all Members will be aware that both Prestwich and Radcliffe have without support submitted further bids in Round 2. An announcement is due at the end of July and we wish both bids every success.

Madam Mayor, earlier today we admitted to the Borough 3 new Freeman in a marvellous ceremony. Again, I congratulate them all on their achievements and how they have all, in their individual and specific ways, made Bury a better place, and firmly placed our Borough in a national spotlight.

Madam Mayor, I should now like to report on the work of the Cabinet. Since the last meeting of the Council the Cabinet has met on one occasion.

At that meeting two very important items of policy were considered and subsequently approved by Cabinet.

First, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration presented a report outlining details of a proposal to charge for pre-application discussions for certain types of planning proposals.

Following debate I am pleased to say this proposal received unanimous Cabinet support. This was a very important decision because the Council will now recoup appropriate costs incurred in certain types of pre-application discussions – a practice now already in place in other parts of the conurbation, which this Administration considers is now appropriate to introduce in our Borough.

Madam Mayor, the Cabinet meeting on the 13 June also received a report from the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Well Being and the Director of Public Health concerning the Public Health Annual Report for the Borough.

There were some startling facts contained in that report and presentation, and whilst it is right and proper to note how the health and well being of our Borough overall has improved in recent years, there is a worrying trend that the health inequalities between different parts of our Borough remain unacceptably high. Madam Mayor, this Administration intends to take positive action to redress this unfair trend.

The Cabinet unanimously made a commitment to work with other agencies in this Borough, and beyond our boundaries, to facilitate the improvement of health and well being in the Borough by signing up to 5 objectives, based around **connecting** with others, **being active**, **giving** opportunities to link communities, **taking notice** of our health, being self aware and, **learning** to encourage all to: start well, develop well, grow up well, live and work well and age well.

Madam Mayor, that concludes my speech this evening. **END**