

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**12 SEPTEMBER 2012**  
**LEADER'S STATEMENT**

Madam Mayor, fellow Councillors and members of the public, I would now like to report to Council on the work of the Cabinet since the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 4 July.

The Cabinet has met twice since the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council: First on 11 July at The Longfield Suite in Prestwich and again on 22 August at St Bernadette's Parish Centre in Whitefield and where public attendance was disappointing. I would ask **All** Members present in this Council Chamber to continue to actively engage with the Constituents in each of their respective Wards to encourage and promote attendance at, and participation in, Cabinet and other

Council meetings – where policy matters are considered and important decisions made.

Whilst this summer has been badly affected by poor weather it's been one of success and outstanding achievement. Quite rightly the Mayor has acknowledged Zoe Robinson's performance it's also been about the volunteers and torch bearers and those unsung heroes who have made this summer unique for our Country. Congratulations to them all.

Talking of success, I am sure I speak for all Members in congratulating our young people attending our two Colleges and those in our High schools for their outstanding exam performances, where again Bury's young people have excelled.

We also had drama, with two major emergencies, the flash flooding in Prestwich and the fire at Radcliffe. On both occasions our staff responded magnificently and ensured our colleagues in Police and Fire were well supported, but most importantly, those residents affected had access to key Council Services throughout.

Following on from the last Council meeting concerning the future of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Fusiliers. As many Members will know AGMA have also taken up the campaign and asked Bury to be the Lead Authority. In that capacity I have written to over 60 North West MP's bringing to their attention about the need for their support in a sustained campaign; I have also written the Editors of local and regional press to publicise the government's e petition web site. I am working with John Barron MP, a former Fusilier who is pearheading

the national campaign and is seeking to secure a debate in Parliament soon. It an interesting observation that of the four petitions current running on the e petition web site the Fusiliers have significantly move signatures, nearly 8,000 and where the next similar e petition is around 600 to save the Scottish Regiments.

Madam Mayor turning to the specific business of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 July, where we received the Capital and Revenue Outturn position for the last financial year. Not only were the accounts presented ahead of time but its worth noting that the Council was singled out for praise by Audit Commission no less to say that Bury's accounts have reached 'World Class Standard'. Our congratulations go to Mike Owen and Steve Kenyon and all the accountancy team on this well deserved accolade.

The Cabinet also received a report on the outcomes of the Ofsted report on safeguarding and looked after children including a proposed plan of action to ensure key issues of risk are managed effectively. Whilst securing 'adequate' overall there were a great many positive comments with which to build on going forward.

Madam Mayor, the meeting of the Cabinet on 22 August considered a wide range of reports on financial and service performance management; updates on the Transition of Public Health Services and staff to the Council. Six Town Housing celebrated another successful year when they presented their Annual Report to Tenants.

The Cabinet received and unanimously approved this administration's proposal to invest over £600,000 into the Regeneration of Radcliffe by supporting a ground breaking project to create jobs and training opportunities which will bring empty properties back into productive use. The use of this innovative approach to stimulating the Local Economy shows the importance of these and other initiatives such as those in Pimhole and building on former garage colonies promoted by this Administration.

The Cabinet also approved for consultation – a proposed revision to the policy on eligibility for Home to School Transport. A further report will be submitted to the Cabinet in December 2012 on the outcome of that consultation.

And Finally Madam Mayor, Cabinet received and approved for consultation a Draft Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The impact of this Con Dem Government's decision to localise Council Tax Support whilst at the same time slashing millions from the scheme nationally before the funds get any where near local communities is down right cruel!!! In Bury the impact of the national cut is expected to be in the region of £1.4M.

We will conduct this consultation exercise with the best interests of our communities – and particularly those in most need and the vulnerable – at the heart of these very challenging proposals. A further report will be presented to cabinet in November 2012.

Madam Mayor, that concludes my report on the work of The Cabinet.

**END**