

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

12 SEPTEMBER 2012

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notices of Motion have been received:-

1. First Bus Fares

“Buses provide a really important public service to residents. They provide access to jobs, to training and education, to shopping, and to healthcare and leisure facilities. Decent bus services are more important than ever, particularly in these difficult economic times.

However, the deregulation of bus services over 25 years ago has led to higher fares, reduced bus services and a less integrated transport network - particularly in Bury - and more generally across Greater Manchester. Deregulation has meant that bus operators set whatever fares they like and run the services the way they please.

Transport for Greater Manchester has a limited budget to pay for concessionary fares and for essential bus services, such as those in the early morning and evening or in areas where bus operators are unwilling to run services. Currently it has no authority to influence bus fares.

First and Stagecoach are the two biggest bus operators in Greater Manchester, both of whom make healthy profits but who choose not to compete directly with each other. A daily and weekly bus pass for an adult now costs £4.50 and £18 on First's buses, compared with £3.90 and £12 on Stagecoach's buses. And the gap between their respective fares continues to grow.

This Council resolves to:

1. Call on First Bus, as the major bus operator in the North of Greater Manchester to reform its fares policy and reduce all its bus fares permanently.
2. Work closely with other local authorities and TfGMC to highlight the continuing transport problems across Greater Manchester caused by bus deregulation.”

In the names of Councillors A Audin, K Audin, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, J Columbine, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald L Fitzwalter, J Frith, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, M A James, D Jones, J S Lewis, A K Matthews, N A

Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq and S Walmsley.

2. Member Behaviour

“This Council seeks to improve the standard of party politics before and at local election time.

Firstly, we resolve to improve the standard of discourse in the Council Chamber by respecting each other and resisting engaging in personal attacks on political opponents.

Secondly, at election time we resolve not to engage in activities which can be perceived as intimidating or confrontational, in particular, where young people are concerned.

Thirdly, we note the regrettable behaviour that has taken place at counts over recent years which has included personal insults amongst certain candidates standing for election.

Therefore, we resolve to ensure that the Code of Conduct be maintained by all Councillors and their supporters in order to promote respect and decent standards in public life.”

In the names of Councillors M Connolly, I Gartside and T Pickstone

3. Neighbourhood Planning

“This Council notes the end of the moratorium on building on green spaces in our Borough and the recent planning decision to commence large scale building on Spen Moor. We recognise the strength of public outrage on this outcome and the precedent that this decision has now set for future potential housing developments. Such planning issues have a very direct impact on the lives of the people in our local communities.

This Council firstly resolves to acknowledge the need for a balance between the ever changing housing targets imposed on this Borough and the need to protect the green spaces that characterise our Borough’s quality of life.

Further, this Council notes the recent provisions made in The Localism Act 2012 to allow Neighbourhood Planning. The Neighbourhood Planning Framework encourages the involvement of Township Forums so that local people can have direct involvement in determining planning policies. Neighbourhood Planning Orders could be used to allow certain applications to be decided in the local area rather than the centralised local authority planning process.

Therefore, this Council secondly resolves to establish a Neighbourhood Planning Framework in Bury which will allow communities to submit their Neighbourhood Plans.”

In the names of Councillors R A Bibby, R A Caserta, I B Gartside, D L Gunther, M Hankey, K Hussain, J Taylor, B Vincent, R E Walker, J F Walton, M J Wiseman and Y Wright.