

**COUNCIL MEETING  
17 OCTOBER 2012  
LEADER'S STATEMENT**

Madam Mayor, Fellow Councillors and members of the public, I will now take this opportunity to report to Council on the work of the Cabinet since the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 September.

The safety of all our residents and visitors in Bury is paramount and I was pleased the Cabinet agreed to introduce 20 mph zones across the Borough over the next 3 years. Several studies on this issue have concluded that for every 1mph average speed reduction in an urban street, there is a 6% reduction in collision frequency. It therefore follows that reductions in average vehicle speeds have the potential to deliver significant benefits across the transportation, environmental and health agendas.

The Council will invest £750,000 of its hard pressed finances to support this programme.

The six Township Forums Plans were adopted and was the culmination of a consultation process where each Township Forum identified there respective priorities over the coming period.

The Cabinet also gave its unanimous support for a small but very important mortgage and rescue loan fund, which aims to offer small interest free loans or grants to householders who are in danger of having their homes repossessed or being evicted and who can demonstrate their ability to repay a loan, following a full financial assessment with a money advisor. As the loans are paid back those monies will be recycled and further loans made to other eligible householders.

A new allocation framework was agreed for the awarding of grants to the Voluntary Sector commencing in April 2013 for a 3 year period. This new framework allows the Council to be assured that where grants are awarded they will go to voluntary groups who meet the Council's priorities.

However, in the light of the deteriorating financial situation forced upon by this dreadful ConDem Coalition, it's likely that the current levels of funding cannot be sustained and these are to be reviewed.

As part of the ongoing savings programme and to secure more effective use of resources the Cabinet agreed to a proposal as of our Asset Management Strategy to close the Highways depot at Fernhill and relocate to facilities to Bradley Fold, which will ultimately save the Council £86,000 a year on running costs.

And finally Madam Mayor, the Cabinet agreed to support the strategic review of Manchester Airport's Growth Plan, which allows for Management to make bid for Stansted airport and if successful this will significantly offer the prospect of increased dividends coming to the 10 District Councils in Greater Manchester.

At our Cabinet meeting last week we approved the launch of a 6 week consultation on the Council's 'Core Strategy'. It's a lengthy document and is broken down into themes covering economic development; land for employment; housing; the environment and transport infrastructure.

Again on Planning, the Cabinet also approved Bury's Local Development Scheme which sets out a timetable and identifies the range of documents to be produced for the production of Bury's Local Plan.

The Cabinet also approved two key policy documents for consultation on housing. The first covers a Strategic Tenancy Policy for the Borough which includes matters concerning:

- Lifetime Tenancies v Fixed Term Tenancies
- Housing for Older People
- Affordable Rent Conversions
- Homelessness

To name but a few.

The second policy document for consultation covers Housing Allocations.

Allocations Policy for the Borough which includes matters concerning:

- Banding
- Qualifying Persons
- Treatment of Anti-social behaviour

The final report agreed for consultation was on Destination Management which was developed following a Plan for Change review.

The proposal is to develop a more broad based tourism information framework which will reach out to a wider audience using a dedicated web site and providing an increased Tourist Information presence at key culture and leisure events.

We want to develop a cohort of Bury Ambassadors to build on the Olympics and Para Olympics experience” and further develop the infrastructure and capacity for staging locally led events to support businesses across the borough, but at the same time encouraging to be more hands on.

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

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