

Public Document Pack

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Chief Executive

Our Ref LW
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Date 21 January 2014
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Legal & Democratic Services
Division

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TO: All Members of Council

Councillors : S Briggs (Chair), A Audin, K Audin, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, R Caserta, D Cassidy, J Columbine, M C Connolly, A Cummings, J Daly, E Fitzgerald, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, I Gartside, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, M Hankey, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, K Hussain, T Isherwood, M James, D Jones, J Lewis, A Matthews, S Nuttall, D O'Hanlon, N Parnell, T Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, J Smith, S Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, B Vincent, R Walker, S Walmsley, J Walton, M Wiseman and Y Wright

Dear Member/Colleague

Council

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Wednesday, 29 January 2014
Place:	Bury Town Hall
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

The Agenda for the meeting is attached.



Electronic service of legal documents accepted only at:
E-mail: legal.services@bury.gov.uk
Fax: 0161 253 5119

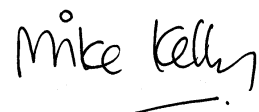
Town Hall
Knowsley Street
Bury BL9 0SW
www.bury.gov.uk

Reports are enclosed only for those attending the meeting and for those without access to the Council's Intranet or Website.

The Agenda and Reports are available on the Council's Intranet for Councillors and Officers and also on the Council's Website at www.bury.gov.uk – click on **Agendas, Minutes and Forward Plan**.

Copies of printed reports can also be obtained on request by contacting the Democratic Services Officer named above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are requested to declare any interests which they have in any items or issues before the Council for determination.

2 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2013 in Digest 7 (2013/2014)

3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive communications from the Mayor and any announcements by the Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive on matters of interest to the Council.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Pages 11 - 14)

To answer questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given, on any matter relevant to the Council or its services to the community. Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for this purpose. If time permits, further questions will be invited from members of the public present.

5 PETITION

A petition was handed in at the Council meeting on 11 December 2013 which asked signatories to "say NO to the installation of a sculpture centre in Bury Central Library."

As the petition contains in excess of 2,500 signatures from people who live, work or study in Bury, the petition organisers are entitled to have the petition debated at Council.

Under the petitions procedure, the petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition and then discussion amongst members takes place for a maximum of 15 minutes

6 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

7 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME (Pages 15 - 40)

To receive a Statement from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet and to answer written questions from Members of the Council to the Leader and Cabinet Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the Borough, provided the necessary written notice has been given.

Verbal questions on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting will be allowed subject to a limit of one question per Councillor.

8 JOINT AUTHORITIES - REPORT BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS (Pages 41 - 44)

(A) A report by the Council's Representative on the work of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor Matthews.

(B) Questions (if any) on the work of the Joint Authorities to be asked by Members of the Council for which the necessary notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

9 POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW AND POLLING STATION REVIEW (Pages 45 - 58)

Report attached.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notices of Motion have been received:-

1. Council Tax

"This Council notes that times have been tough for many hard working people in our country since 2008. However, the UK economy is now growing faster than most major European economies.

This Council regrets the 3.7% hike in Council Tax that the current Labour administration placed on hard working people in our Borough earlier this year. It had a significant effect upon levels of disposable income and slowed down the economic recovery in Bury.

The recent announcement by the Coalition Government to help local authorities freeze the Council Tax for the 4th year running and also offer assistance in 2015/16 is to be welcomed by this Council. Furthermore, the Government have also guaranteed that ongoing freeze grants will be put into the local government funding 'base'. This means that councils will not be penalised down the line for taking up the freeze.

Now that the economic recovery is in full swing, this Council needs to do all it can to ensure that the recovery is sustained in Bury.

Therefore, this Council resolves to at least freeze the level of Council Tax at the Budget Council on the 19th February 2014."

In the names of Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, K Hussain, S Nuttall, B Vincent, R Walker, J Walton and Y Wright

2. Homophobic Bullying

"This Council believes it is vital to capitalise on the good work already

undertaken in raising the issue of homophobic bullying, particularly with regard to young people.

According to the University of Cambridge research for Stonewall in The School Report (2012), 55% of young gay and bisexual people have experienced homophobic bullying in schools and 95% have experienced homophobic language. This Council believes that as community leaders and school governors we should commit ourselves to challenging this.

As an employer we have taken great strides in addressing homophobic bullying but there is still a great deal of work to be done. For instance, all councillors should sign up to be Straight Allies. We should, as governors discuss with our schools what steps need to be taken to combat this unacceptable state of affairs."

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

11 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

12 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

Questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented to be asked by Members of the Council (if any).

13 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Questions on the delegated decisions made by the Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees contained in the Digest of Decisions 7 (2013/14) published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, providing four clear working days' notice has been given of the question.

Members are asked to bring to the meeting their copy of Digest 7 (2013/14)

Minutes of: **AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 11 December 2013

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S Briggs), in the Chair; Councillors D Bailey, M Bailey I Bevan, J Black, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, R A Caserta, D M Cassidy, J Columbine, M Connolly, A J Cummings, J Daly, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, K Hussain, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J S Lewis, A Matthews, S Nuttall, D O’Hanlon, N Parnell, T D Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, J Smith, S Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, B Vincent, R E Walker, S Walmsley, J F Walton and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Audin, K Audin, N Bayley, J Frith and M Wiseman

Public attendance: 27 members of the public attended the meeting

C.608 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Connolly declared an interest in any item which related to staffing as his partner is an employee of Bury Council.
2. Councillor Jones declared an interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee of Bury Council.
3. Councillor Bevan declared an interest in items relating to staffing and education as his wife is employed at Summerseat Methodist Primary School.
4. Councillors Black, Columbine, Heneghan, Southworth and Tariq declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute C.615 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as the report makes recommendations in respect of Deputy Cabinet Members, and each left the meeting during consideration of this item.
5. Councillor Holt declared a Personal Interest in minute C.615, Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as he is a Deputy Cabinet Member who is already in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance as Chair of the Human Resources and Appeals Panel.
6. Councillors Connolly and Quinn declared Personal Interests in a question relating to Digital Inclusion as they are Members of Unite the Union.
7. Councillor O’Hanlon declared a Personal Interest in a question relating to Business Rates as he is employed by a business with retail interest in the Borough.
8. Councillor Daly declared a Personal Interest in a question relating to local breweries as he is a Member of CAMRA.

C.609 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 October 2013 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.610 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Mayor referred to the recent Homecoming Parade of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the opening of "In Step", a new support group for ex-Forces personnel and their families.
2. The Mayor thanked those who had supported her Civic Ball which had helped raise £735 for the Mayor's Charities.

C.611 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor reported that there had been two questions received as follows:-

Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1. Representations to Secretary of State for Education regarding the academisation of Elton Primary School.	Ms B Reeves	Councillor Connolly
2. Views of Conservative Councillors regarding the academisation of Elton Primary School.	Mr P Sandiford	Councillor Connolly

The Mayor invited questions from members of the public present and the following issues were raised:-

Issue	Questioner	Answered By
3. Petition organised by the Save Bury Library Group and scope for ongoing discussion.	Ms S Smith	Councillor Connolly
4. Consultation and Transparency regarding plans for Bury Library.	Mr R Trueblood	Councillor Connolly
5. Resignation of elected member from the Conservative Group	Mr J Mallon	Councillor Connolly

6. Arrangements for coping with adverse weather conditions.	Mr A Miller	Councillor Connolly
7. Assistance with organising survey of parental views regarding the academisation of Elton Primary School.	Mr D Jones	Councillor Connolly

C.612 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

(1) Minutes CA.566 of the meeting of the Cabinet on 27 November 2013 – Treasury Management Strategy – Mid Year Review 2013/14.

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor John Smith and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the report be noted.

(2) Minute 7 of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board on 28 November 2013 – Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

It was moved by Councillor Heneghan and seconded by Councillor Campbell and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board be endorsed.

C.613 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written questions (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Connolly, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting. The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Library Provision in Bury	Councillor Jones	Councillor Lewis
2.	Greater Manchester Smart Motorway	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Isherwood
3.	Support for small businesses	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Connolly
4.	Investment in Radcliffe	Councillor Cummings	Councillor Connolly

5.	Business Rate Discount	Councillor O’Hanlon	Councillor John Smith
6.	Sunday Car Parking Charges in Bury	Councillor Walker	Councillor Isherwood
7.	Provision of grey bins	Councillor Black	Councillor Southworth
8.	Adult Home Care	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Shori
9.	Airport Dividend	Councillor Vincent	Councillor John Smith
10.	Foster Carers	Councillor Southworth	Councillor Campbell
11.	Winter Weather Arrangements	Councillor O’Hanlon	Councillor Isherwood
12.	Parking outside schools	Councillor Daly	Councillor Isherwood
13.	Voluntary and Community Support – Police and Crime Commissioner	Councillor Simpson	Councillor Walmsley
14.	Mondi Paper Mill –Ramsbottom	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Isherwood
15.	20 mph speed zones	Councillor Carter	Councillor Isherwood
16.	Support for local breweries	Councillor Daly	Councillor Connolly
17.	Food banks operating in Bury	Councillor Stella Smith	Councillor Walmsley
18.	Community Awards	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Walmsley
19.	Digital Exclusion	Councillor Fitzwalter	Councillor Holt

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 11 to 19 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of the answers to those questions will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

(b) Oral questions on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting (without Notice)

20.	Corporate Financial Monitoring – Non Service specific elements	Councillor Gartside	Councillor John Smith
21.	Re-instatement of employee incremental progression	Councillor Holt	Councillor Connolly
22.	Parking Enforcement Contract	Councillor Walker	Councillor Connolly
23.	Support for Big Coat Day – FC United	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Connolly

24.	Broadband provision in rural areas	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Connolly
25.	Peer Review – Action Plan and Feedback	Councillor O’Hanlon	Councillor Connolly
26.	Early Break – Community Café	Councillor Tariq	Councillor Connolly
27.	Ofsted Inspection Regime	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Connolly

C.614 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Cummings, the Council’s representative on the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, gave a verbal report on the work of the Committee to all Members of the Council.
- (b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Petition relating to re-routing of the 154 bus route.	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Grimshaw (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester)
2.	Household Waste Disposal Facilities	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Cummings (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority)

C.615 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

A report of the Independent Remuneration Panel was submitted which made recommendations to introduce Special Responsibility Allowances for Deputy Cabinet Members and the Standards Independent Person.

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor John Smith that the recommendations be approved.

Prior to the vote on the motion, in excess of the required eight Councillors requested that voting be recorded to show how each Member cast their vote, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5.

The result of the vote was as follows:-

For the Motion:

Councillors D Bailey, M Bailey, Bury, Campbell, Carter, Cassidy, Connolly, Cummings, FitzGerald, Fitzwalter, Grimshaw, Haroon, Holt, James, Jones, Lewis, Matthews, Parnell, Quinn, Rothwell, Shori, Simpson, J Smith, S Smith and Walmsley

Against the Motion:-

Councillors Bevan, Caserta, Daly, Gartside, Gunther, Hankey, Hussain, Nuttall, Vincent, Walker, Walton and Wright

Abstaining from the Vote:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillors O'Hanlon and Pickstone

The Mayor declared the motion carried and it was

RESOLVED:

That the following additional Special Responsibility Allowances be approved:-

1. £1200 per annum for Deputy Cabinet Members;
2. £350 per annum plus £30 per hour for each Hearing Panel attended for Standards Independent Persons.

C.616 LOCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

A report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs was submitted which provided Members with an up-date on the local Council Tax Support Scheme and set out recommendations to continue to deliver a local scheme within the available budget.

It was moved by Councillor John Smith and seconded by Councillor Connolly and it was:-

RESOLVED:

1. That the Scheme introduced with effect from 1 April 2013 be continued without change from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
2. That agreement of the specific legal wording of the local Regulations enacting the Council Tax Support Scheme set out in the report be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs and the leaders of the two other political parties represented on the Council.

C.617 NOTICES OF MOTION

Two Notices of Motion have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12:-

1. Domestic Abuse

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:-

Councillors A Audin, K Audin, M Bailey, D Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, J Columbine, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, 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

It was moved by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Tariq:

"Council notes that domestic abuse affects every community in Bury: rich or poor, white or black, old or young, gay or straight. Over the past 12 months, Greater Manchester Police dealt with 3,570 cases of domestic abuse in Bury.

This represents the tip of the iceberg. It is estimated that one in four women will experience domestic abuse at some point in their life. It doesn't just affect women, 17% of the victims who report domestic abuse to police in Bury are men. Domestic abuse isn't just physical, many people suffer serious emotional turmoil at the hands of abusive partners.

Council notes that help and advice is available to victims of domestic abuse and those who fear their friends or loved ones may be victims at the www.endthefear.co.uk website.

This council resolves to make a stand against domestic abuse by:

- working with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Greater Manchester Police, the NHS, housing associations, other agencies and most importantly of all, local communities across Bury to make clear that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable;
- doing all we can to encourage people to report domestic abuse to the police;
- instructing the Chief Executive to report back by April 2014 on progress made by this Local Authority and partner agencies to improve and enhance services provided to victims of domestic abuse.

The Council agrees to sign up to the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner's promise to "say no to domestic abuse" at www.gmpcc.org.uk/endthefear and encourage as many Bury residents as possible to do the same."

(At this stage in the Proceedings it was moved by Councillor Gartside and seconded by Councillor Daly that the question be now put which was unanimously agreed.)

On being put, the motion was declared unanimously carried.

2. Bury Library

A motion has been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:-

Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, K Hussain, S Nuttall, B Vincent, R Walker, J Walton and Y Wright

It was moved by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Walker:

"This Council notes the proposal to install a Sculpture Centre in part of the building presently occupying Bury Library. This Council believes Bury Library to be an invaluable and much loved community asset benefiting the residents of our Borough. This Council is opposed to any plan to reduce the present footprint of Bury Library believing there to be no culture, educational and economic argument to support this. We are further opposed to any reduction in books and other material presently held by Bury Library and available for members of the public to borrow. This Council believes the facilities and services presently offered by Bury Library should be maintained at their current level.

THIS COUNCIL therefore resolves to:

1. Cease installation of a Sculpture Centre at Bury Library
2. Not to spend £75,000 or any sum of tax payers money carrying out renovations or alterations to the structure of the building at this time.
3. Allow Bury Library to maintain its present footprint.
4. Retain all lending and reference materials presently held by Bury Library.
5. Retain the present level services and facilities currently offered by Bury Library.
6. To employ a permanent staffing structure solely based at Bury Library to allow for the above."

Prior to the vote on the motion, in excess of the required eight Councillors requested that voting be recorded to show how each member cast their vote, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5.

The result of the vote was as follows:-

For the Motion:

Councillors Bevan, Caserta, Daly, Gartside, Gunther, Hussain, Nuttall, O'Hanlon, Pickstone, Vincent, Walker, Walton and Wright.

Against the Motion:

Councillors D Bailey, M Bailey, Black, Bury, Campbell, Carter, Cassidy, Columbine, Connolly, Cummings, FitzGerald, Fitzwalter, Grimshaw, Haroon, Heneghan, Holt, James, Jones, Lewis, Matthews, Parnell, Quinn, Rothwell, Shori, Simpson, J Smith, S Smith, Southworth, Tariq and Walmsley.

Abstaining from the Vote:

The Worshipful the Mayor.

The Mayor declared the Motion lost.

C.618 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items "called in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at this Council meeting.

C.619 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

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

C.620 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no written questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Committees or Scrutiny Committee contained in the Digest of Decision No.d 5 and 6 (2013-2014).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.10 pm)

COUNCIL

29 JANUARY 2014

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. John Mallon

Following a further recent traffic accident at the junction of Chestnut Ave and Bury New Rd (A56) in Whitefield, this it is clearly a dangerous junction and we have been extremely lucky that to date no one has been seriously injured.

Can the Council please confirm for the residents of the Trees Estate that funding will be approved and announce a start date for the work to be carried out to install much needed traffic lights.

A. The funding for the A56, Bury New Road / Chestnut Avenue junction signalisation has been approved. The works are due to commence on Monday 3rd February 2014 and are programmed to be completed by April 2014.

2. Andy Miller

Could I have an update from the Leader of the Council on what is being done in respect of making parks safer?

A. Due to work carried out over the past decade, the parks have risen in standard and safety, so much so that 12 parks have gained and retained the National Green Flag standard which includes being assessed on personal safety as well as other criteria. Designing out vandalism has been a priority of the Council in this time which includes installing robust equipment like metal benches and fences surrounding bowling greens.

Due to the year on year improvement of the parks in Bury many more people now use them than ever before, providing a safe environment for all users. Some of the more recent improvements include refurbished/painted tennis courts, installation of table tennis tables in some parks and run routes in others, together with increased activities through the "I Will If You Will" programme.

The parks are regularly inspected by a number of Officers for hazards, health and safety and we have many volunteers who help in many and varied ways to keep standards up.

3. Rob Trueblood

The plans for the sculpture centre appear to be based mainly on the art gallery manager's conjecture about mounting world class exhibitions and the subsequent attraction of visitors ready to spend money in Bury. Is there proper evidence in the form of market research and a strong business plan to back these claims that can be made available for public viewing?

A. The model is based on the experience of many similar developments using new cultural facilities as drivers contributing to local economies. A business plan has not been written because the model of international partnership and external funding for the Sculpture Centre is simply an extension of the existing successful business model operated by the Bury Art Museum – which in terms of business was acknowledged as in the top 3 in the UK as evidenced by its commendation for Trade & Enterprise in the 2013 national Museums & Heritage Awards.

4. Sue Smith

The success of the sculpture centre seems to rest heavily on the art gallery manager's contacts and deals in the art world. Is there a contingency plan should it not be successful?

A. It won't be unsuccessful. As you acknowledge, the borough's Arts Manager is a leading expert in the field with extensive contacts and network experience in international art. It is difficult to gauge what lack of success will look like in relation to this question. The opening programmes are already confirmed: The first exhibition features one of the most famous artists in the world; the second exhibition of European & Chinese art is being curated by a leading art world figure – a former Turner prize judge. The third exhibition will feature textiles and contemporary crafts specifically responding to the borough's active knitting community. 2015 is already in negotiation with even high profile events aimed at bringing visitors to the town. Culture and tourism are major sectors of the local economy and one of the biggest employers in the town. Expanding Bury's cultural offer can only contribute to that economic impact.

Indeed, the challenge isn't whether the Sculpture Centre is successful but more how can Bury maximise the benefits such high profile programmes can bring.

The track record of the Art Museum is built on flexibility and rapid response to changing conditions – this capacity to innovate would be part of any contingency actions.

5. Susan Pye

With regard to the Bury Library and Sculpture Centre, in a time of cutbacks how much will the Sculpture Site cost to run each year?

A. It will cost no more than it would cost to leave the space empty. In maintaining library services and arts/museums in the complex, the running costs in terms of heating, light, maintenance, etc., are the same as if nothing had changed. Staffing of the Sculpture Centre is achieved by minor alteration of museum staffing patrol rotas and extensions of the CCTV systems in the building.

6. Ruth Yates

The council has raised the problem of funding Bury Library staff's salaries and quoted this as a major reason for the proposed re-sizing of the library. Where will the funding come from to pay the salaries of the staff for the Sculpture Centre?

A. Staffing of gallery spaces is much less labour intensive than staffing libraries. The operation of the Sculpture Centre is possible with minor changes to the way Bury Museum is programmed and staffed, and with extended CCTV, re-location visitor assistants to the Sculpture Centre without additional costs.

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COUNCIL MEETING**29 January 2014****LEADER'S STATEMENT**

Madam Mayor, Members and Officers of the Council, there has been only one meeting of the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council.

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Cabinet received the Medium Term Financial Strategy, covering the period 2015-2017. A period which many agree will be the most challenging in the recent past and possibly within the life of this Borough.

It makes for grim reading but never the less it's important, as a responsible Administration that we have a strategy as finance is central to all activities of the Council; virtually everything the Council does has a financial implication; whether it involves incurring costs, or generating income.

What will be the Post 2015 Challenge

I have already told Members that 2015 will be our toughest year so far given the huge cuts by Government to our revenue budgets. The strategy also speculates, quite strongly that a similar cut is likely for 2016-17. The view was re-enforced recently by the Chancellor who indicated further cuts of £25 billion are still needed. If we thought a cut of £54m was eye watering, think about a figure of £70m by 2017 which is off the scale and simply overwhelming to think we can meet all of the needs of our residents given these levels of cuts.

I have been accused in some quarters of scare mongering and being fast and loose with announcements of doom and gloom. I hope those watching and listening to announcements from Government will finally appreciate and accept the scale of the revenue reductions we are facing and scale of the cuts we need to manage.

Accepting what we have to do to deliver £10m of cuts in 2014-15, the urgent priority now is to develop proposals that will see reductions identified as part of a medium term financial plan that places these detailed budget options within a two-three year timeframe.

Post 2015 Challenges

Things will change, that's a fact. I have previously spelled out some of the changes.

Changing the expectations about what the Council can deliver – In the future, the Council will not be able to meet all the public's needs/expectations or be able to deliver services at the quantity/quality/standard that we currently provide. The Council will need to be up-front about the need to cut services, spell out why levels of service are reducing, develop more targeting or in some circumstances stop delivering services altogether.

Working more closely with individuals and communities to deliver services – The Council will not be organisationally or financially able to meet all service needs in the future and therefore will need to work with individuals and communities to encourage them where possible to undertake more for themselves. This is an approach that we will need to consider across all the Council's services where we do not have an individual statutory requirement. For example, the Council may provide facilities or equipment but community/voluntary groups/individuals may have to organise events, maintenance, support etc. themselves.

This approach builds on the very long standing and successful 'self management' partnerships operating for bowling greens, football pitches and play areas and, more recently, with the Park Rangers' service. More of this approach is needed and involves engaging and encouraging a greater partnership between the Council and voluntary community groups in providing services in their area. Over the coming period we will be working with 3rd Sector partners to develop a new and comprehensive Volunteer Strategy that will support a transformation of this important area.

Stronger focus on demand reduction - Part of the principles behind Public Service Reform is to manage the demand for services, reduce this demand where possible and to identify more cost effective ways of meeting the demands that remain. It is important that we adopt the same approach to the delivery of the Council's mainstream services. We have had some success for example through the changes we made in the refuse collection arrangements which has changed people's attitude towards recycling and helped the Council reduce the expensive costs of tipping rubbish into landfill.

Can we do more for less? – Bury Council, its Members and employees have and continue to work miracles in delivering services with less resources and less costs. Yes, employees have been subject to changes to their terms and conditions with the latest change which focused on reducing cost of car allowances and car parking permits. This has, quite rightly, also involved Members who now, for example, have to pay if they want to park at the Town Hall during the day.

However, I question whether that is enough giving we are seeing no reductions in demand for services?

Over the coming period we must redouble our efforts to ensure the services we directly provide are securing value for money and are delivered in the most effective way as I know our residents would expect this. This may well mean doing things differently to the way we have always delivered services; **No change** is not an option for us!

Changing the way Residents access services

Bury Council has been trying to widen access options in addition to providing very traditional ways residents and service users access services and secure information about services. Whilst there have been developments with the Council's web site to move to become a 24/7 Council

access is still primarily through face to face contact and telephone.

The challenge for us is that we need to offer a wider range of 'self service' remote options similar to the high street experience so familiar to many of our residents, such as booking holidays, on-line shopping, and banking. In a post 2015 environment the Council will have to look to becoming a 'virtual' council where the 'high street' experience of 'self service' using smart technology becomes mainstream, whilst still offering the traditional options, but these, because of affordability, will have to steadily reduce over time.

Corporate Debt Policy

The cabinet agreed to a new Corporate Debt Policy and I was personally pleased to see some of the positive changes which includes encouraging customers owing the Council and Six Town Housing to make contact as soon as they get into difficulty.

To support this approach advice and information will be provided at the first point of contact in relation to all council debts which includes a risk assessment

Customers will be advised about free independent money advice services provided locally and given information about free on line help available.

We are also working in partnership with Step Change (formally CCCS) who is the UK's leading debt charity. We are utilising this valuable, free independent service and have hot keys in place within the Council and Six Town Housing.

Flood Management Strategy

This is a very topical subject right now.

Cabinet Members approved the final Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal for a further six week period of consultation in order to establish final stakeholder views on the revised Strategy and any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal. Following on from this consultation any necessary revisions will be incorporated in to the documents prior to issuing a final 'adopted' version of the Strategy.

Surplus Land Disposal Strategy

This strategy:

- Encourages services to look critically at their use of property and, where possible, to release such assets for disposal.
- Where properties have been declared surplus, their interim management will be undertaken by the Estates team and the ongoing running costs associated with such properties transferred accordingly.

STONEWALL

I was delighted to see again the Council has been recognised as a high scorer in the annual Stonewall Top 100 Employers in Britain Workplace Equality Index' achieving 54th place on the index with more points than we have ever scored previously.

In addition, our LGBT employee network group was singled out as the 'Star Performer Network Group' for the North West region and was presented with this prestigious award at the North West awards ceremony last week. Bury Council is also quoted as a case study in the index report for our 'robust commitment to fostering a workplace culture where all employees are treated with dignity and respect'.

NEETS

The latest Annual Activity Survey for NEETS for Bury Year 11 leavers shows it's been another record year with 97.1% in Employment; Education or Training. This is an improvement from the previous impressive record last year of 95.9% which naturally we are delighted with. I would like to publically thank all our High Schools, Colleges and Employers for making available these opportunities for our young people.

High Street of the Year

The good news keeps on coming
Bury recently came joint second in the Daily Telegraph Awards, where there were 500 entries and where it was the only one in the North West to be shortlisted.

I and Cllr Frith recently visited a number of shops in the high street and clearly the diversity of shops played a big part in this award. I also recently met local business leaders and I pay tribute to them for the good work they do in working with us to continue to improve the shopping experience for residents and visitors to Ramsbottom.

Employment

I was pleased to read recently that Bury town centre had the largest increase in employment of all the GM town centres over the 2009-2012 period. This 15% increase in employment highlights the crucial importance our impressive Bury town centre makes to the economy of this borough. Creating a strong local economy is a key priority of this administration and we will continue to do whatever we can to support and celebrate the success of all our town centres.

HEN Project

Helping Homeless people to change their lives around is something we all I am sure would wish to support. Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the HEN Graduation Ceremony which is shorthand for the Housing Employment and New Opportunities.

The project made available 44 bed spaces and where 21 placements were completed; 15 found new employment and 25 people were in training.

Madam Mayor that concludes my statement.

End

Council Meeting – 29 January 2014

Questions:-

The Leader of the Council

Question running order:

1st: Liberal Democrat

2nd: Conservative

3rd: Labour

1. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Leader please update members on what the Authority is doing to promote volunteering within the borough?

A. Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the delivery of a wide range of public services and contribute enormously to the quality of life of many Bury residents.

The Council actively encourages volunteering through its support of the Bury Volunteering Centre where volunteers are interviewed and followed up 6 weeks later to assess their progress.

484 volunteers were supported by the volunteering centre in the 6 months April to September.

The Volunteer Centre has worked with Bury Adult Learning Service to improve the way in which we work together to promote volunteering related courses. As a result, in October 2013 the VC will deliver two 'Introduction to Volunteering' workshops at Adult Learning Centres in Bury and Whitefield.

The Volunteer Centre's 'Time to say thank you' scheme during Volunteer's Week (1-7 June) recognised the valuable contribution that volunteers make in Bury by awarding a Certificate of Recognition for 50 or 100 plus hours of volunteering , signed by the Mayor of Bury, to over 400 volunteers from a diverse range of local groups As part of our 'Made in Bury' campaign we want to recognise the good work of many of our residents and community groups throughout the borough.

This years Made in Bury Community Awards had three main categories. These were:

- Outstanding contribution to a township won by Mr and Mrs D.Moore of Whitefield**
- Young person or young persons' group - outstanding community contribution won by Young People from Streetwise 2000**
- Volunteer of the year award won by Linda Freeman of Bury Street Pastors**

2. Councillor Bevan

Could the leader inform the Council how much is the by-election in Ramsbottom on March 6th going to cost the Council?

A. The by-election itself will cost in the order of £12,850 less savings of £1,242 from allowances giving a net cost of £11,608.

I trust that no-one will attempt to make political capital out of an individual's private family circumstances. These costs are the price of giving voters a choice when a person is no longer able to fulfil their duties on the terms under which they were originally elected.

3. Councillor Jones

The people of Bury have for a long time enjoyed living in one of the safest Boroughs in Greater Manchester. Last year for example, I note there wasn't a single homicide for the year ending 31 December 2013. Have we been rewarded with this 'success' by having our Divisional Commander removed to join a task force at Headquarters and does this in effect mean that Bury's voice at GMP's top table has now been diluted at a time when we need to protect our resources here in Bury?

A.

- **Due to unprecedented cuts to public expenditure being experienced across all our public services, driven by this conservative led coalition government, colleagues in GMP are faced with having to make significant savings over the next few years.**
- **Like us, they are having to make challenging decisions in order to ensure they can continue to deliver effective services to the people of Bury and across Greater Manchester as a whole.**
- **In order to create the capacity to design and implement the changes necessary, they have advised partners across Greater Manchester that there are to be some imminent changes to the local senior management structures across GMP. A Superintendent post will be removed from each division in the next few weeks, and the number of Divisional Commanders will be reduced by four.**
- **From 3rd March 2014 Chief Superintendent Annette Anderson, the current Rochdale Divisional Commander, will**

be in overall charge of Bury and Rochdale. Similar pairing arrangements will be implemented in Bolton/Wigan, Salford/Trafford, and Oldham/Tameside.

- **Superintendent Mark Granby and Divisional Commander Forber will be leaving the Bury division between now and 3rd March. Karan Lee will remain as the sole Superintendent**
- **We are advised by our colleagues in GMP that this is an interim position which will remain in place while a full review of the current structure of GMP is undertaken.**
- **We have sought assurances from GMP that they remain committed to a Neighbourhood Policing Structure in Bury and that they will continue to provide representation and input into Bury’s key strategic partnerships and priorities. Collectively, partners on the Bury Community Safety Partnership will seek to ensure Bury’s needs and interests are met.**
- **We continue to have an excellent relationship with the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner. The CSP is already undertaking work to ensure Bury is in the best possible position to influence his commissioning priorities over the next year and beyond.**

4. Councillor O’Hanlon

Could the Leader please inform members how much money has been spent so far in the current financial year and in each of the last two years has been spent on compensation for claims for damages as a result of poor road or pavements, and how much has been spent in staffing and legal costs of defending or contesting such claims?

A.	Compensation Payments	Legal Costs
2011/12	£ 969,984	£ 155,840
2012/13	£ 830,451	£ 31,269
2013/14	£ 1,040,787	£ 20,212

Claims Handling used to be undertaken by an external insurance company, however the service was brought in-house in April 2011.

This created 2 jobs and delivers an annual saving of around £90,000 compared to fees charged by our insurers.

5. Councillor Daly

What is the Council's view of the concerns recently outlined by the Inspector, regarding certain elements of the Bury Core Strategy?

A. The Council is of the view that the Core Strategy that was approved at Council and subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State on the 6th of December last year is a robust and credible strategy for future growth and development in the Borough.

It will be up to the Planning Inspector to determine whether the Core Strategy's vision of safeguarding Bury's Green Belt is appropriate in the context of national planning guidance. The Council will endeavour to argue this position at an Exploratory Meeting scheduled with the Inspector for 25 February.

6. Councillor Ann Audin

Can the Leader tell us how the Recycling Programme in Bury is progressing?

A. In 2012/13 Bury Council achieved a household recycling rate of 46.4%, a fantastic improvement on the dismal 24.3% rate that we inherited from the previous administration.

However we are determined to go further and Members will know that we intend to undertake a 2 year trial of more intensive promotional, educational and regulatory activity with the objective of taking household recycling performance beyond 50%.

All new staff have been appointed and are now in post, with effect from 20 January. All posts have been filled internally and I can assure Members that the staff are now busy familiarising themselves with the requirements of their posts with the aim of 'hitting the ground running' and beginning to make an impact on the Council's recycling rate.

7. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Leader please provide members with an update on the maintenance and monitoring provided by the authority of our roadside gulleys and grids. Has there been a reduction in the service in recent years and has this resulted in an increase in complaints from residents?

A. There has been no reduction in the level of service provided, but the Council has taken on additional obligations in relation to flood relief. This, in conjunction with increased public awareness of flooding and worsening weather patterns can lead to a general increase in complaints of this type. There is no evidence of any significant change in recent years. Since 2006/07 there has been an average of 524 complaints per annum. There was a slight increase to 632 in 2012/13, but this was a particularly bad year for flooding and resources were consequently diverted more than normal to deal with flooding issues.

So far in 2013/14, there have been 384 complaints, which is more in line with the average.

8. Councillor Gunther

Can the leader confirm which or whose cars are allowed to park in the undercroft of the Town Hall and are these cars subject to the same pricing regime as those in the ceremonial car park or other car parks?

A. The Mayor's car is kept in the underground car park and other spaces are allocated to Council officers. I can confirm that all of those officers who have been allocated a full time space in the underground car park are required to pay for a parking permit at the same rate as everyone else.

9. Councillor Southworth

Can the Leader tell me how many families in Bury have benefitted from the 'Supporting Families Improving Lives' initiative and what, if anything, has proved to be the barrier to its successful implementation?

A. The Supporting Communities, Improving Lives project (or SCIL as we know it), is Bury's response to the national Troubled Families initiative. Since the project team became operational six months ago, performance has risen steadily and at the moment 75 families have shown sufficient improvement to no longer be labelled 'troubled', with a further 23 families currently in receipt of intensive support from the team.

In addition to the outstanding work that the project workers have done to accelerate the project in recent months, I would also like to pay tribute to the contribution of other Council services and of our partners who have contributed hugely.

In terms of challenges, there are three areas where we have faced particular issues.

Firstly there have been problems obtaining reliable data in a timely fashion to help us understand the scale of the issue, family profiles and underlying reasons for current behaviour.

Secondly we have found it hard to gain acceptance by families to work with the project.

Thirdly there is the issue of dealing with, and obtaining support for families who fall through the gaps because their needs are outside mainstream services or fall below the threshold for statutory provision. Efforts are being focussed on understanding and overcoming these issues and a number of supporting projects have been commissioned recently to improve employment chances, family support and capacity building in the community.

10. Councillor O'Hanlon

Could the Leader please tell members how much money has the authority spent on using taxis in the last two financial years and so far this financial year?

A. Can I thank Cllr O'Hanlon for his question, and for the challenge he set us by asking for such detailed figures covering such a widespread area of spend.

The figures he asked for are as follows:

2011/12	£1,516,064
2012/13	£1,344,938
2013/13	£1,033,885

The vast majority of this spend is incurred on home to school transport and the vast majority of that is for children with special educational needs.

I can assure Members that Taxi costs are subject to rigorous control and are procured on a contract basis through regular, detailed tendering exercises.

Not only have we risen to Cllr O'Hanlon's challenge but I thought it might be helpful to go further and to look at taxi costs for 2010/11 when the Members opposite were in control of the Council and these came to £1,623,381.

The figures show what Members will already know, that this Labour administration has not been afraid to tackle home-to-school transport costs and that we have successfully made considerable savings.

11. Councillor Walker

How many miles of bus lane have now been completed since 2005 on the A58 orbital from Bolton to Littleborough outside of Church Ward ?

A. TfGM have been unable to provide a breakdown for this length of the A58. We do know that 0.3 miles lies within the boundaries of Church Ward.

12. Councillor FitzGerald

International Women's Day is Saturday 8 March and the slogan for this year is 'Inspiring Change'. What is Bury doing to inspire women to make a change for themselves?

A. Thank you for asking this question as it helps to remind us all of the positive gains made in relation to women's equality over the years. At the same time, we cannot be complacent and need to recognise that

across the world, there are still major in-equalities that exist that need to be addressed.

- ***The 'Inspiring Change' theme encourages advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way. It calls for challenging the status quo for women's equality and vigilance to inspire positive change for women. Everyone can be an advocate for women's advancement.***
- **What better way to inspire women to make positive changes for themselves than through the 'I Will if You will' initiative – a major initiative where our Council has been successful in obtaining external funding through Sport England to help women help themselves.**
- **I'd call on the women and young girls of Bury to visit the 'I Will If You Will' website (<http://www.iwillifyouwill.co.uk/>) where they can find all the information they need about a movement to get us ladies of Bury moving and help us to be healthier. Its about getting together, trying something new and having fun.**
- **In addition to the above, we continue to support voluntary and community sector groups across our Borough to help achieve positive changes for women through a range of our funding schemes. This includes work through the Bury Asian Womens Centre and Prestwich & Whitefield Townswomen Guild.**
- **Under the Local Government Association's 'Be a Councillor' campaign, arrangements are also in hand to encourage more women to become involved, including plans to talk to Asian women on local government decision-making and the electoral process.**

13. Councillor Wright

Has the relevant Cabinet member considered my request of December and again repeated in January, to allow Councillors to be involved in the decision making process in allocating 106 monies in their respective Wards, that is before any decisions are made and not merely informed later?

A. All Section 106 contributions are secured against specific planning policy or site specific requirements and must be spent in accordance with the terms of each individual Section 106 agreement. Spending plans are drawn up in line with Council plans and strategies with member involvement as appropriate.

Most commuted sums come via the recreation policy and these monies are spent on a short strategic list of schemes that is drawn up based on the Green Space Strategy, local priorities, the play area strategy and opportunities for attracting external funding. Ward Councillors are consulted to seek their views before the strategic list of suggested recreation schemes is finalised. Given the number of play, leisure and recreational areas that exist across the Borough, it would be very difficult to consult councillors on individual projects outside of the strategic priorities.

Affordable Housing contributions are normally secured on site but some commuted sums have been secured in lieu of on-site provision. These monies will be spent in line with the Affordable Housing Strategy, which was formally approved by Cabinet on 24th August 2011.

Likewise, Public Art contributions are normally secured on site but where monies are received, the Council's Principal Arts Officer will draw up proposals in line with the s106 in consultation with Ward Members.

Committed sum payments for Employment Land will be used to bring forward employment opportunities in line with the approved Framework that was signed off by the Executive in September 2007.

Therefore, it is clear that commuted sums are being spent in line with strategic proposals and visions for each area that the sums are ring-fenced for. These strategies have been formally approved and involve further Member involvement where appropriate. This strategic approach ensures that spending is in line with stringent legal tests and in line with the relevant s106.

Also, it is often the case that commuted sums need to be accumulated from a number of different sites in order accrue sufficient monies to deliver a specific project. As such, it is not necessarily the case that the commuted sums that are secured in a particular ward are actually spent in that ward.

14. Councillor Parnell

Could the Leader please explain why Gorsefield Primary School, which achieved a 'good' in its last OFSTED Inspection and was given a clean bill of health by the Authority only a few months ago, could now be deemed 'inadequate'?

A. Like Councillor Parnell the Authority is very disappointed with the outcomes of the Ofsted inspection of Gorsefield Primary School in November 2013. Our own view of the School's performance during 2013 was that it was "Requiring Improvement" because the progress of the children was lower than the national expectation. This was

confirmed by an LA Health Check of the school prior to the inspection which judged the school to Require Improvement.

The Head and Chair of Governors of Gorsefield did not agree with the judgement of the LA about the school and in the self-evaluation presented to Ofsted judged the school to be "good." This was unfortunate and when the Ofsted team visited the school and saw poorer practice than expected this made the position of the school more difficult to defend.

The LA stands by the view that this is a "Requiring Improvement" school rather than an "Inadequate" school but Ofsted has taken a different view. The LA is drawing up a support plan for the school and will work hard with the Head and leadership to move the school forward in the next few months. The DfE has indicated that they will expect the school to become a Sponsored Academy and the LA will seek to identify an appropriate local sponsor for the school as it has done for Radcliffe Primary and Elton Primary.

15. Councillor Gartside

To what extent does the Leader or relevant Cabinet member feel that ward members and/or the planning control committee should be consulted on planning applications that are to be determined by neighbouring authorities but still have a significant effect upon the residents of Bury?

A. Consultations from adjacent authorities on planning applications in their area are carried out under Article 16 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 as amended.

They are only required to consult us as the Local Planning Authority when the proposed development affects 'land' in our authorities area. However, in many cases the adjoining local authority consult us under Article 16, even when the development is not affecting our 'land'.

In responding to an Article 16 Consultations representations should be restricted to the impact development will have on land, which normally means allocations of land that we have for development such as retail, residential or industrial uses which have been approved by the authority.

As such the role of the Council is to ensure that developments do not impact adversely on 'land' and as such it is a technical assessment that needs to take place.

When we receive any consultation under Article 16 (whether or not it has been correctly determined by the adjacent authority) we automatically notify the Ward Members of the constituencies adjacent and supply details of the Bury residents, close to the boundary so that the authority considering the application can notify them directly and ask for representations under Article 13 of the Regulations.

Given that the ward councillors are notified of the application and that the adjacent authority also notify our residents as appropriate, of the application, representations should be made directly to the determining authority and this is not a process that should involve the Council where 'land' is not affected by the development.

16. Councillor Simpson

Could the Leader confirm what is being done across the different townships to address the rise in anti-social behaviour incidents which is being experienced across the whole of Greater Manchester?

A.

- **Anti-Social behaviour figures in Bury have been decreasing since pre-2011, but we have seen a rise again in December 2012 (compared to previous years).**
- **Bury had 1851 incidents of ASB for the last quarter of 2012. This had increased to 1957 for the last quarter of 2013.**
- **It is important to note that ASB levels have increased across Greater Manchester overall during this time with all local authority areas experiencing increases.**
- **Indeed, Bury continues to remain one of the best performing areas across Greater Manchester in relation to ASB.**
- **A number of initiatives are in place to tackle ASB including:**
 - **Strong Multi-agency working arrangements at both strategic and operational level**
 - **A range of initiatives to support prevention, early intervention and diversion including 'Be Safe Be Cool' (operates in all our High Schools), 'Safe 4 Summer' and 'Operation Treacle'.**
 - **The ASB team are working closely with the 'Supporting Communities, Improving Lives' initiative to help identify and address the root causes and challenge the ASB and other risky behaviour in some of our most vulnerable families**
 - **Access to independent mediation services, regardless of housing tenure.**
 - **Use of Restorative Justice Programme through 'ROC Restore'.**

Use of Enforcement tools including joint visits, warnings, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

17. Councillor Nuttall

Can the Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Affairs consider providing non-Cabinet members of the Council with a full list of which services are statutory or non-statutory before the Budget is decided upon on the 19th February?

A. I would be delighted to let Members have a list of the 1,294 duties that are placed on local authorities and an e mail will be sent to Members tomorrow.

However I really must remind Members that as far as setting a budget is concerned, the list will be of only limited assistance. The Council's spending is influenced not just by the duties placed on us but also by the level of demand that we face under specific duties, the way in which we discharge those duties, the quality and extent to which we provide services to discharge particular duties and also by our own local priorities.

Indeed the report of the LGA Peer Review team went as far as to say, and I quote... "The grey area around the definition of statutory and non-statutory services should not prevent the council from determining its own priorities. The majority of statutory requirements leave considerable scope for local decisions on the scale and means by which the statutory duty is discharged, and this in turn should allow the council to determine its own priorities first rather than feeling bound to continue with current services in their current form because of statutes."

18. Councillor Black

Can the Leader please tell us how many families in Bury who have at least one parent in work, are living in poverty in Bury?

A. It is not possible to find out this information on a local authority level. The government's preferred measure is the Households Below Average Income survey, which only goes down to regional level. Nationally, 17% fall below the relative poverty line before housing costs are taken into consideration, and 27% after. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/households-below-average-income-hbai--2>

The main data source on local wages is the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. The two key shortcomings here are that it does not take into account benefits payments and that it refers to individuals not families/households. Tax credits and other benefits will lift some workers over the poverty line.

A very rough calculation can be made by taking 60% of median income (the standard poverty line measure - £311 gross per week) and applying it to the Bury labour market. This shows that between 25 and 30% of households in Bury would fall below this level.

19. Councillor Walker

Can we be advised when the LED street lighting project will be completed and will the public be consulted on these unpopular lights with their narrow downward focus before the report is published ?

A. The LED replacement programme will take an estimated 4 years to complete, 2013/14 to 2016/17. Approximately 11,000 lanterns will be replaced during this period.

The LED replacement programme was approved by Cabinet on 7th November 2012 and accepted following a call in by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel chaired by Cllr Hankey on the 29th November 2012. The LED lighting has a much longer lifespan, requires a lot less maintenance and energy efficient returning at least 50% saving over traditional sodium lights at a cost saving of £200,000 per year. There will also be £16,000 saving per year on the purchase of carbon allowances.

The public are informed before work is undertaken in their area. An explanatory leaflet is delivered to each household approximately four weeks before work is carried out.

The light is focused downwards rather than spilling into surrounding gardens, driveways or front gardens of properties. This makes sure the footpaths and roads are lit to the correct standard.

A leaflet has been distributed to households.

20. Councillor Haroon

Can the Leader confirm the work that has been carried out with partners to ensure the success of Hate Crime Awareness Week?

A.

- Hate Crime Awareness Week took place between 20/01/14 and 26/01/14.**
- The aim is to help raise awareness and confidence in the reporting of hate crime. It is recognised that many incidents are under reported and it is essential that we work to understand the reasons for this and support victims in coming forward.**
- Hate crime is an act committed against any person or group who are seen to be different or vulnerable.**
- It is often motivated by the individual or group offender's prejudice which can be based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and anyone who belongs to**

an 'alternative sub culture' (the latter definition was included by Greater Manchester Police following the tragic death of Sophie Lancaster. Sophie died in 2007 at the age of 20 after she and her boy friend were brutally attacked in East Lancashire just for being Goths).

- Hate Crime can have a debilitating effect on its victims with many likely to suffer depression and other emotional side effects.
- It is essential that victims of hate crime are confident enough to report it so that authorities are able to deal with it and help improve support for victims and prevent further occurrences.
- In Bury, the Council have worked closely with GMP colleagues to help promote hate crime awareness week including:
 - Promotion through each of our ten hate crime reporting centres, which are venues where incidents can be reported anonymously if victims would rather not visit a Police Station. Details of these are available on the Bury Council website - www.bury.gov.uk/hate-crime-reporting-centres
 - Bury Hate Crime Forum have disseminated posters to raise awareness, including to each of the borough's hate crime reporting centres.
 - A hash tag #HCAW2014, has been set up by Greater Manchester Police and a series of tweets have been tweeted to help promote awareness.

This Council remains committed to helping to challenge and prevent hate crime; work continues throughout the year through our Hate Crime Forum and not just during hate crime awareness week.

21. Councillor Daly

Will the British Telecom Planning and Survey Review of implementing faster broadband speeds for rural areas across the Borough include Hawkshaw? Will Councillors be informed of the outcome?

A. The next step for the Greater Manchester Project is for the successful bidder (BT) to undertake a planning and survey phase. It is during this phase that Council officers will be able to discuss in greater detail the roll out of faster Broadband speeds across the Borough within the wider context of economic benefit to the entire borough.

Only then will we be able to assess which, if any, parts of Hawkshaw could be enabled through the process.

Overall Bury will benefit at the end of the project by witnessing 94% coverage of our priority areas. This is the highest potential coverage across the 8 districts of GM that are involved in the project.

I am happy to confirm that Councillors will be informed of the outcome.

22. Councillor Rothwell

Will the Council undertake to write to all Owners of 'Park Homes' in the Borough to advise them of their 'Rights' and what to do and who to contact if these Rights appear in danger of being infringed?"

A. Our records and further checks reveal that there are no 'Park Homes' in the Borough, therefore, there we are not aware of any owners to contact about this matter.

If such homes were to emerge in the Borough we would pro-actively inform those concerned about their rights and responsibilities, especially in the light of recent changes. This is consistent with our general approach to landlords and tenants as we work to improve standards in the private rented sector – building on initiatives such as the Bury Landlord Accreditation Scheme and the Bury Landlords' Forum.

23. Councillor Gartside

Can the leader or relevant Cabinet member report what percentage of staff in the authority have regular "One to One" discussions with their line managers?

I'd like to thank Councillor Gartside for his question.

Although we do not routinely collect data on the frequency of 1-1 discussions and employee reviews this administration is firmly committed to the principles of employee engagement. These principles were agreed as part of the Employee Engagement Strategy agreed by the cabinet in March 2012.

In order to establish a baseline for engagement a mini survey was conducted in 2012 and a full employee survey was undertaken in late 2013. In the 2013 survey, specific questions were asked in relation to one to one discussions, line management support and employee reviews.

I am pleased to report that 78% of employees agreed that their line manager recognizes and acknowledges that they have done their job well. 76% of employees agreed that they received appropriate support from their line manager and 65% receive regular and constructive feedback on their performance through 1-1's.

By comparison only 57% of employees agreed that their line manager gave regular feedback on their performance when the employee survey was conducted in 2010 when the Conservative administration was in control.

These responses are very encouraging and demonstrate the progress made by this administration in engaging with employees and our efforts seem to be bearing fruit because the LGA Peer Review team said in their report that "Despite the significant changes in the council over the past three years the commitment and loyalty of council staff was amazing."

I couldn't agree more Madam Mayor.

Briefing Note: Cllr Matthews – Bury Update**Date: 22nd January 2014 – GM Pete Riley****New Bury Fire Station Update**

Moved in 6th July 2012 – now in for 18 months. Fully settled in and operating as a 'community station'. A number of 'snagging issues' are being dealt with by the contractors.

The Community Garden Project is in full swing, with hard landscaping carried out and pathways installed. An outdoor classroom/covered gazebo is due for installation in February, as well as a patio area. Once the construction phase has been completed, soft landscaping will be completed in early spring. Vocational students from Bury College Construction department have made and installed benches in the garden.

Examples of community users include: Asian Women's Group; MS Society; NHS Pennine Care; Probation Services; Radcliffe Children's Centre; Redeeming Our Communities; Communities Group; Bury Beekeeping Club; Community consultation exercises; Disabilities Group; Army Cadets; various partnership groups.

As part of the sustainability strategy it has been built to a high BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) specification.

BREEAM sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance.

Fire Service Corporate Plan - Consultation

Proposals contained in the plan were widely discussed across a number of stakeholders: fire service staff; 'market stall' event in Bury town centre; Community Safety Portfolio; Citizens Panel at Bury FSHQ; and feedback across the Bury Partnership. Further changes to affect Bury are the removal of one of the two fire appliances, confirmed to take place on 3rd February 2014. This has resulted in the redeployment of 6 fire-fighters to other stations across the Brigade. The changes to Ramsbottom have not yet taken place but project work is on-going to develop a new shift system to include the removal of the 2nd appliance, and integration of the retained firefighters with the wholetime crews to yield financial savings.

Significant Community Safety Initiatives**Jewish Community Initiatives and Integration**

BM Pete Riley is leading an 'initiative' to promote integration of the Fire Service with Jewish communities across the 3 Boroughs of Bury, Salford and Manchester. There are approximately 5000 Jews in the Borough of Bury (plus 2000 in Salford and 1000 in Manchester). Cultural barriers have previously limited the amount of preventative work we have carried out. We have now created strong links with key bodies such as

the Beth Din (Rabbi Brodie), Jewish Representative Council, Interlink, Heathlands, Jewish Lads and Girls, Hatzola, Link and CST (Community Security Trust). This has enabled us to access many Jewish homes, and we have also delivered messages to the business community on the 'Fire Safety Order'.

We ran a hugely successful Safety Day on 30th June in Prestwich to further promote fire safety in the home and business compliance.

A Jewish cadet scheme for orthodox Jews has also been running at Whitefield Fire Station for the last few months – delivering the ASDAN qualification.

ADAB Partnership

A DVD has been produced in liaison with ADAB, to address specific South Asian fire safety issues. It is being used in a wide variety of ways including through workshops, and during home safety checks which are being conducted by Asian volunteers. The DVD is in 8 languages, to represent the predominant speakers. It has been designed to be rolled out beyond Bury to the remainder of the organisation, and potentially nationally.

ADAB volunteers have been trained to deliver Home Safety Checks and have supported operational personnel on campaigns locally.

Work is on-going to run further workshops in the Asian business sector to address Fire Safety Order requirements.

Bsafe BCool

Following a spate of small fires and anti-social behaviour caused by youths during the summer holidays at Holcombe in Bury, a partnership between the Fire & Rescue Service, Police and Bury Council was formed with a specific remit to educate young people and prevent this type of behaviour. The Bsafe, Bcool partnership targeted year 9 pupils in schools across Bury. The project aimed to encourage them to act responsibly in the community through a series of interactive workshops with each Service.

The key topics studied by teenagers were sex, drugs, alcohol, crime, antisocial behaviour, fire and towards the latter end, cyber bullying. The sessions allowed the respective organisations to provide important information to, and strike up a rapport with, young people across the borough. To assist in promoting the message, the partnership used the skills of Bury College School of Performing Arts who demonstrated some of the effects of anti-social behaviour through expressive dance.

The sessions allowed pupils from schools across Bury to interact and get involved in discussions around safety and personal responsibility and build relationships with their local neighbourhood Police Officers, Fire Service and partners.

The scheme was delivered in October to Year 9 age groups across all the secondary schools in the Borough.

Borough Performance – To the end of Quarter3 2013-14

	Previous Year to Date	Year to Date	Target to Date
Primary Fires	89	72	81
Fatalities	0	1	0
Casualties	8	4	7
Total Deliberate Fires	88	58	98
Accidental fires (dwellings)	35	35	33
Deliberate Primary Fires	23	21	20
Deliberate Secondary Fires (rubbish, etc)	65	37	78
Vehicle Fires	8	6	No Corporate Target
Unwanted Fire Signals	92	66	78
Malicious Calls Attended	6	3	No Corporate Target
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards fire-fighters	1	1	No Corporate Target
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	32	13	No Corporate Target
Number of people rescued from fires	6	0	No Corporate Target

Home Safety Checks (HSC's)

Borough target: 3286 annually

Total this ¼ : 713

Total for year 2013/14: 2379 (which equates to 72% of target to date).

The overall annual figure will be revised down to 3151 due to the reduction of an appliance and personnel at Bury. Completion to date against revised annual target is 76%.

Borough Manager

Pete Riley

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Email: rileyp@manchesterfire.gov.uk

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REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION MAKER:	Council
DATE:	29/01/2014
SUBJECT:	Polling District and Polling Places Review 2014
REPORT FROM:	Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER:	Warren Rafferty
TYPE OF DECISION:	Council
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	Compulsory review of all polling districts and polling places in Bury
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	Recommendation
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	This review is necessary to comply with statutory timescales. All costs will be met from existing budgets
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	There are no additional resource implications
Equality/Diversity implications:	Yes Report includes details of disabled access at polling stations
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	None

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TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
		29/01/2014	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of polling districts and polling places. This review had to be completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 inclusive. It was therefore timed to have affect upon publication of the revised Register of Electors on 17 February 2014. Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after October 2013.
- 1.2 Section 18B (4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 states that in conducting a review of polling places the authority must:
- a) seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
 - b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons

In addition the polling place for a polling district must be within the area of the district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area either wholly or partly outside of the polling district.

Electorate and property figures are as at 2 January 2014.

2.0 CONCLUSION

That Council approves the recommendations included in this review.

List of Background Papers:-

None

Contact Details:-

Warren Rafferty
Electoral Services Manager
0161 253 6018
w.j.rafferty@bury.gov.uk

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT ARRANGEMENTS

*Figures are based on the Canvass Register January 2014

RAMSBOTTOM/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
AA	720	161	The Eagle and Child, Whalley Road		Maintain
AB	940	153	Foundation Unit Peel Brow School, Fir Street		Maintain
AC	2099	441	Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street		Maintain
AD	2163	419	Hazelhurst CP School, Geoffrey Street		Maintain
AE	2927	665	St Andrews Church, Bolton Street		Maintain
AF	307	84	Mobile Van on Car Park on Lumb Carr Road		Maintain

NORTH MANOR/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
BA	1941	464	Christ Church Hall, School Lane, Walmersley		Maintain
BB	871	174	Rowlands Methodist Church Hall, Rowlands Road		Maintain
BC	1717	417	Holcombe Brook CP School, Longsight Road		Maintain
BD	1647	402	Greenmount Old School, Brandlesholme Road		Maintain
BE	1482	373	Greenmount Cricket Club, Brandlesholme Road		Maintain
BF	595	121	Hawkshaw Methodist Church Hall, Bolton Road		Maintain

TOTTINGTON/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
CA	1196	336	Elton High School, Walshaw Road		Maintain
CB	1840	353	Christ Church CEP School, Church Street		Maintain
CC	1928	434	Walshaw Sports Club, Sycamore Road		New
CD	1677	389	Tottington Library, Market Street		Maintain
CE	251	45	Mobile on Kingsbury Close		New
CF	189	65	St Hilda's Parish Hall, Victoria Street		Maintain
CG	189	65	The Pack Horse Pub, Watling Street, Affetside		Maintain

ELTON/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
DA	2104	2104	Brandlesholme Library, Brandlesholme Road		Maintain
DB	1657	1657	St James Church Hall, St James Avenue		Maintain
DC	1897	1897	The Elton Centre, David Street		Maintain
DD	3192	3192	Woodbank CP School, Brandlesholme Road		Maintain

MOORSIDE/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
EA	1954	225	St Pauls's CEP School, Porritt Street		Maintain
EB	1877	325	Salvation Army Citadel, Brookshaw Street		Maintain
EC	2108	409	Seedfield Methodist Church Hall, Mosley Avenue Entrance		Maintain
ED	1736	295	St John with St Mark Church Hall, Parkinson Street		Maintain
EE	1771	261	Nursery Unit St John with St Mark CEP School, Athlone Avenue		Maintain

EAST/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
FA	1739	396	Fairfield CP School, Rochdale Old Road		Maintain
FB	770	101	Topping Fold Community Centre, Topping Fold Road		Maintain
FC	2248	329	The New Kershaw Centre, Deal Street		Maintain
FD	2023	349	St Thomas Church, Rochdale Road		Maintain
FE	1087	184	The Mosses Centre, Cecil Street		Maintain
FF	549	93	The Library at Castle Leisure Centre		Maintain

CHURCH/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
GA	1991	328	St Stephens Church, Belbeck Street		Maintain
GB	2090	562	Nursery Building St Stephens CEP School, Colville Drive		Maintain
GC	1545	394	Greenhill CP School, Mile Lane		Maintain
GD	1532	396	Lowercroft CP School, Ashington Drive		Maintain
GE	1497	327	Chantlers School , Foulds Avenue		Maintain

REDVALES/BURY NORTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
HA	2586	453	Redvales Childrens Centre, Dorset Drive		Maintain
HB	1118	220	Manchester Road Community Centre, Manchester Road		Maintain
HC	1181	251	Mobile Unit on Hampson Mill Lane		Maintain
HD	2008	403	St Peters CEP School, Whitefield Road		Maintain
HE	2322	369	Parkhills Community Centre, Horne Street		Maintain

BURY SOUTH**UNSWORTH/BURY SOUTH**

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
JA	2314	535	Hollins Community Centre, Hollins Lane		Maintain
JB	2062	473	Unsworth Library, Sunnybank Road		Maintain
JC	1834	437	St Bernadettes Social Club, Selby Avenue		Maintain
JD	1272	369	Unsworth and Sunnybank Community Centre		Maintain

RADCLIFFE EAST/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
KA	2534	480	Close Methodist Church, Bury Street		Maintain
KB	1454	201	St Mary's Catholic Social Club, Pine Street		Maintain
KC	1209	179	Radcliffe Civic Hall, Thomas Street		Maintain
KD	1427	254	St Mary's RC Infant School, Belgrave Street		Maintain
KE	1347	220	Wesley Methodist Community Hall, Alma Street		Maintain
KF	838	215	Mobile Van Ainsworth Arms Car Park		Maintain

RADCLIFFE NORTH/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
LA	1686	384	Ainsworth Parish Hall, Church Street		Maintain
LB	1921	404	Dobbies Sports & Social Club, Bradley Fold Road		Maintain
LC	2308	461	Wesley MP School, Forth Road		Maintain
LD	3032	617	Community Library, Westminster Avenue		Maintain

RADCLIFFE WEST/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
MA	1588	258	Nursery Building Chapelfield CP School, Clough Street		Maintain
MB	1972	368	St Johns CEP School, Johnson Street		Maintain
MC	823	163	Mobile Van Sycamore Avenue		Maintain
MD	1133	186	Radcliffe United Reformed Church, Blackburn Street		Maintain
ME	3290	574	St Philips Community Centre, Dean Street		Maintain

PILKINGTON PARK/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
NA	463	91	Mobile Van Blue Bell Car Park, Manchester Road		Maintain
NB	1087	149	Mobile Van Rear Cross Keys Hotel, Lily Hill Street		Maintain
NC	1631	339	Stand All Saints Church Hall		Maintain
ND	2195	434	Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane		Maintain
NE	2434	618	Mobile Unit on Sergeants Lane		Maintain

BESSES/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
OA	1135	323	Music Building Mersey Drive CP, Mersey Drive		Maintain
OB	1384	286	Music Building Mersey Drive CP, Mersey Drive		Maintain
OC	3413	634	The Ark Pupil Learning Centre, Albert Road		Maintain
OD	1652	243	Whitefield CP School, Victoria Avenue		Maintain
OE	875	144	Besses o'th Barn United Reform Church		Maintain

HOLYROOD/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
PA	522	54	Mobile Van Heywood Old Road		Maintain
PB	733	84	Lady Wilton Hall, Nutt Lane		Maintain
PC	2508	418	St Margaret's Youth & Community Centre, St Margaret's Road		Maintain
PD	1990	395	Heaton Park Sports & Social Club, Bury Old Road		Maintain
PE	1724	382	Prestwich High Arts College, Heys Road		Maintain
PF	1496	307	Toodle Hill Childrens Centre, Heaton Park CP School, Cuckoo Lane		Maintain

ST MARYS/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
QA	989	172	Rainsough Community Centre, Rainsough Brow		Maintain
QB	1719	432	Butterstile CP School, School Grove		Maintain
QC	2772	577	St Andrews Church, Woodward Road		Maintain
QD	2797	469	Our Lady Of Grace Old School, Fairfax Road		Maintain

SEDGLEY/BURY SOUTH

Existing arrangements


Polling District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Proposition
RA	1736	289	Mobile Van Meade Hill Road, Windsor Road		Maintain
RB	984	168	Mobile Van Castle Hill Road		Maintain
RC	3139	611	Sedgley Childrens Centre, Bishops Road		Maintain
RD	603	85	Mobile Van Bury New Road/Portugal Road		Maintain
RE	1805	339	St Hilda's CEP School, Whittaker Lane		Maintain
RF	828	155	Nursery Unit Park View CP School, Park View Road		Maintain



Equality Analysis Form

The following questions will document the effect of your service or proposed policy, procedure, working practice, strategy or decision (hereafter referred to as 'policy') on equality, and demonstrate that you have paid due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

1. RESPONSIBILITY

Department	Chief Executives	
Service	Electoral Services	
Proposed policy	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2014	
Date	January 2014	
Officer responsible for the 'policy' and for completing the equality analysis	Name	Warren Rafferty
	Post Title	Electoral Services Manager
	Contact Number	0161 253 6018
	Signature	
	Date	January 2014
Equality officer consulted	Name	Catherine King
	Post Title	Principal HR Adviser
	Contact Number	0161 253 6371
	Signature	
	Date	January 2014

2. AIMS

What is the purpose of the policy/service and what is it intended to achieve?	<p>Section 18B (4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 states that in conducting a review of polling places the authority must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons
Who are the main stakeholders?	Bury Residents

3. ESTABLISHING RELEVANCE TO EQUALITY

**3a. Using the drop down lists below, please advise whether the policy/service has either a positive or negative effect on any groups of people with protected equality characteristics.
If you answer yes to any question, please also explain why and how that group of people will be affected.**

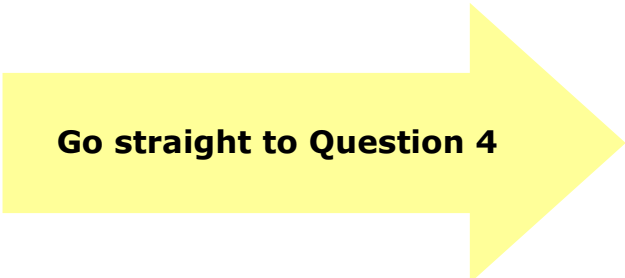
Protected equality characteristic	Positive effect (Yes/No)	Negative effect (Yes/No)	Explanation
Race	No	No	
Disability	Yes	No	The review aims to ensure that all polling stations are fully accessible to all Bury electors
Gender	No	No	
Gender reassignment	No	No	
Age	Yes	No	All polling stations should be fully accessible to all electors, no matter what age
Sexual orientation	No	No	
Religion or belief	No	No	
Caring responsibilities	No	No	
Pregnancy or maternity	No	No	
Marriage or civil partnership	No	No	

3b. Using the drop down lists below, please advise whether or not our policy/service has relevance to the Public Sector Equality Duty. If you answer yes to any question, please explain why.

General Public Sector Equality Duties	Relevance (Yes/No)	Reason for the relevance
Need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010	No	
Need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by removing or minimising disadvantages or meeting needs)	No	
Need to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by tackling prejudice or promoting understanding)	No	

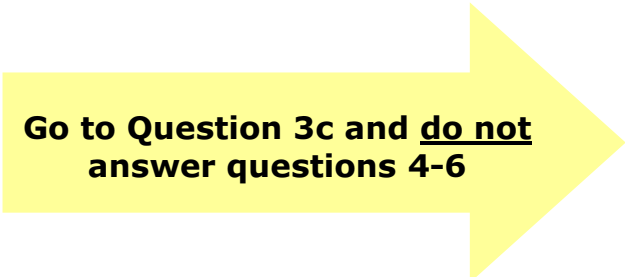
If you answered 'YES' to any of the questions in 3a and 3b

Go straight to Question 4



If you answered 'NO' to all of the questions in 3a and 3b

Go to Question 3c and do not answer questions 4-6



3c. If you have answered 'No' to all the questions in 3a and 3b please explain why you feel that your policy/service has no relevance to equality.

4. EQUALITY INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT

4a. For a service plan, please list what equality information you currently have available, **OR** for a new/changed policy or practice please list what equality information you considered and engagement you have carried out in relation to it.

Please provide a link if the information is published on the web and advise when it was last updated?

(NB. Equality information can be both qualitative and quantitative. It includes knowledge of service users, satisfaction rates, compliments and complaints, the results of surveys or other engagement activities and should be broken down by equality characteristics where relevant.)

Details of the equality information or engagement	Internet link if published	Date last updated
All polling stations were visited by polling station inspectors in May 2012 and at the PCC Elections, November 2012. All stations are fully accessible, with the following criteria being checked: Parking facilities available, including disabled parking where appropriate disabled parking. External access is well lit with no obstructions Entrances are level and securely ramped for disabled access Adequate door width for disabled access (wheelchair) Entrances are clearly signed Disabled signs are clearly placed Adequate lighting Adequate corridor access with no obstructions		November 2012

4b. Are there any information gaps, and if so how do you plan to tackle them?

5. CONCLUSIONS OF THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS

<p>What will the likely overall effect of your policy/service plan be on equality?</p>	<p>The review ensures that all electors have access to polling stations and are able to vote without hindrance. This also ensures that the Returning Officer is able to meet Electoral Commission performance standards.</p>
<p>If you identified any negative effects (see questions 3a) or discrimination what measures have you put in place to remove or mitigate them?</p>	
<p>Have you identified any further ways that you can advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations? If so, please give details.</p>	
<p>What steps do you intend to take now in respect of the implementation of your policy/service plan?</p>	<p>A review of all polling stations will be undertaken by polling station inspectors on any given polling day</p>

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

If you intend to proceed with your policy/service plan, please detail what monitoring arrangements (if appropriate) you will put in place to monitor the ongoing effects. Please also state when the policy/service plan will be reviewed.

A review of all polling stations will be undertaken by polling station inspectors on any given polling day

COPIES OF THIS EQUALITY ANALYSIS FORM SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO ANY REPORTS/SERVICE PLANS AND ALSO SENT TO THE EQUALITY INBOX (equality@bury.gov.uk) FOR PUBLICATION.